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Violent crimes down, property crimes on the rise

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Violent crimes are down in Romulus, but property crimes have increased, according to the uniform crime reporting (UCR) statistics released recently by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Violent crimes: murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault, dropped to 134 in 2003, down from 143 in 2002.

In 2002, 24 forcible rapes were reported. In 2003, that number was down to 15. The number of

robberies went up slightly from 28 in 2002 to 32 in 2003, but aggravated assaults went down from 90 in 2002 to 86 in 2003.

According to Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department there is really no rhyme or reason to the drop in violent crimes in the city.

"We are doing what we have always been doing," he said. "We are out there patrolling and trying to make this city as safe as it can be for the residents who reside here."

Property crimes, which consist of burglary, larceny theft and

motor vehicle theft, were all up last year, however.

The burglary rate rose from 243 in 2002 to 282 in 2003. Larceny thefts rose slightly from 730 in 2002 to 743 in 2003 and motor vehicle thefts rose from 229 in 2002 to 290 in 2003.

The rise in property crime is no surprise to Leacher. He said there is usually a direct correlation between a spike in property crimes and the state of the economy.

"It think it is pretty evident that the economy has something to do with the rise in property

Romulus Crime Statistics							
	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft
2003	1	15	32	86	282	743	290
2002	1	24	28	90	243	730	229
2001	2	15	18	75	247	710	249
2000	-	11	13	105	221	651	223
1999	-	10	21	89	243	785	245

*Statistics from the annual Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics compiled by the FBI

crime in the city," said Leacher. "It seems that when times get hard-as they have been for the

last couple of years-we see the

See **Crime**, page 3



Dozens of Romulus seniors attended the ground breaking of the new senior center this week. The seniors were in good spirits as local, state and federal representatives officially broke ground for the center, but decided that they would teach them how it was done. More than a dozen seniors picked up shovels and turned the dirt for the center which is expected to be complete next fall.



New senior center breaks ground

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus seniors are one pile of dirt closer to getting a new senior center after a ground-breaking ceremony Monday at the site of the new complex.

Many seniors braved the cold to come to the event, which was also attended by members of city council, Mayor Alan Lambert and Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn Heights).

The new center will be

located directly behind the current senior center on Bibbins Road.

The project includes the construction of a 15,400-square-foot senior center, with administrative offices, a kitchen, library, family room, conference/club room, billiards/game room, multi-purpose rooms and a meeting room. The current senior center will be demolished after the new center is completed. The project will cost about \$3.1 million.

The senior center is not the

only department that will find a new home in the center.

The Romulus Recreation Department will move there, too.

Currently, the recreation department is connected to the senior center. Both share a common room to host activities through out the year, but with the construction of the new senior center, the recreation department will also get more space.

Construction is expected to begin before the end of the year.

Districts appeal for more school funding

Scott Spielman
Editor

School officials from western Wayne County are counting on the voices of hundreds of concerned parents to bring what they see as a glaring problem to light: adequate school funding.

The Wayne County Association of School Boards (WCASB), along with groups like the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), Tri-County Alliance for Public Education (TCAPB) and the Wayne County School Superintendents Association (WCSSA), will get together at 6:30 tonight at Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn to address the issue.

And they're bringing a lot of help. Members of local school boards, parents and school officials will also be on hand, according to Greg Baracy, superintendent of the Wayne-Westland Community School District.

"We've been told by our legislators that, until they've been told otherwise by parents, that they don't believe there are any concerns over adequate school funding," Baracy said.

Baracy, like other school officials throughout the state, disagree. The State of Michigan is in its fourth year of cuts, cuts that have resulted in either reduced funding for schools or a frozen foundation allowance. Baracy said they both equate to the same thing.

"The cost of doing business has hit double digit increases," he said. Factors like the increased cost of providing health benefits, coupled with regular salary increases can wreak havoc on a school district,

whose funds are generally more than 80 percent spent on staff.

School districts can contain some of those costs, but usually only through negotiations with unions. Other costs like health insurance increases are passed along by providers and still others, like retirement benefits, are passed along by the state, itself. School district employees retire as state employees.

"We just get that bill from the state every year," said Joan Wadsworth, president of the Northville Public School board.

Baracy said the meeting tonight will include representatives from the county, parent teacher organizations and from the state board of education. He expected about 30 residents of Wayne and Westland to be in attendance. Wadsworth said Northville would have a contingent, too, as would every other school district in the county.

"The bottom line is that we want to grow grass roots support to put pressure on our legislators to keep their promise to fund education for our children in Michigan, adequately," he said. "We're trying to tell the story. The state legislature has to keep its promise."

"This is an effort to try to be creative and present some things to our legislators," said Fred Weaver, president of the Wayne-Westland school board. "We're trying to do everything we can to bring pressure to have them fix Proposal A."

Proposal A is the formula by which schools get their funding. Approved by voters in 1994, it essentially switched the school funding burden from property tax to sales tax. It was designed

See **Funding**, page 3

Hockey legend's book to aid area video class

Students from the Belleville High School media production class that operate the WBHS TV channel 19 station are collecting the necessary funds to attend a national conference. Now, they have some extra help thanks to Jim and Jenny McCoy of McCoy's Grill and hockey legend Gordie Howe.

The 24 advanced video students will begin to sell the book "Mr. And Mrs. Hockey-A Tribute to the Sports Greatest Couple" in hopes to win national awards again this year by attending the conference. It will take place from Jan. 27-29 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles.

The book is about a collection of anec-

dotes about Howe, as well as a tribute to his wife, Colleen, who is suffering from Pick's Disease, a neurological disorder akin to dementia.

Howe retired in 1980, but not before playing 32 pro seasons, scoring 1,071 goals and appearing in 29 all-star games. He also played seven pro seasons with his two sons, Marty and Mark in the World Hockey Association earning two championships after his National Hockey League career.

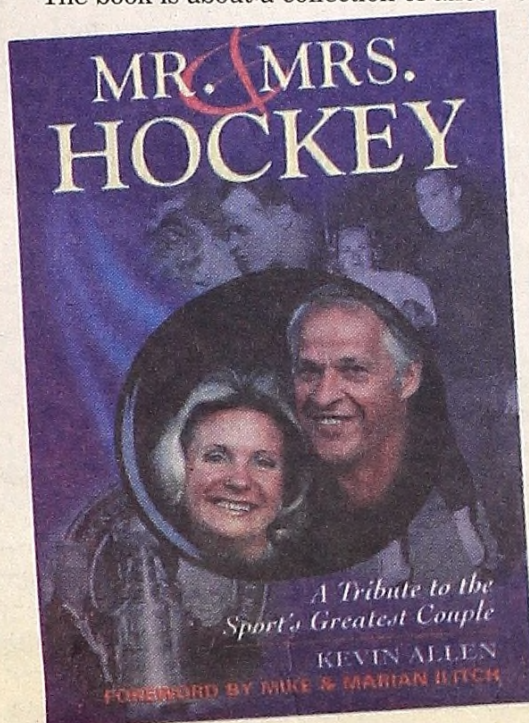
Students have already finished selling Little Caesars pizza kits and cookie dough sets, but were unsuccessful in generating enough money to offset the cost of \$600 per student, which would include airfare, hotel accommodations and registration fees for the conference. Ten dollars of every book sale will go to the students' fund.

Howe will appear at McCoy's Grill, located at 333 Industrial Park Drive in Belleville, on Dec. 17 to sign each book sold.

People who purchase the book from any student or at McCoy's Grill will also receive a signed Gordie Howe bobblehead doll. The book will not be sold in stores.

The students also plan to continue fundraising after their return to pay back money they may have to borrow from friends and relatives.

Steve Wilson, station director at WBHS, is asking anyone who is interested in donating to contact him at the high school at 734-697-9133. A special account has been set up for those wishing to help finance the trip, with donations to be shared among the students.

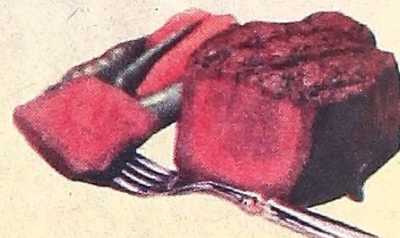


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Longtime nonprofit organization helps those in need

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Nobody should be hungry in Romulus this holiday season, according to members of the American Progressive Association (APA), a non-profit organization founded in 1947.

"We believe that we should give back to our community," said Willie Watson, a longtime member of APA. "One of the ways we do that is by making sure that everyone who is in need of food has the ability to get it."

Watson, a lifelong Romulus resident, has been part of the APA since it began more than 57 years ago. He said that it has come a long way since then.

"When the APA first started there were a few people in the area," said Watson. "It all started more as a social club, something for us to do, because there wasn't a whole lot of things to do back then."

Watson said that the first meetings of the APA weren't really even meetings; they were more like gatherings at a local chicken house.

"We would get together in this little chicken house and talk to each other about things that were going on," said Watson. "Then, when someone in town or in the APA would need help, we were there to do whatever we could."

Watson said that as more and



Members of the American Progressive Association, a non-profit organization also run Pat's Pantry, a food pantry designed to help needy families throughout the year.

more people began moving into the area, their role in the community began to change for the better.

"We began to do a lot of different things with organizations in the community," said Watson. "We started doing events with Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts—anything we could do to help people in the area."

Watson said that the APA even formed a sandlot baseball team and began operating a soup kitchen to help feed the hungry in Romulus.

"Three of the men that played on our sandlot team went on to play professional baseball," said Watson. "We were real proud of that."

Baseball wasn't the only link to sports in Romulus in those days, said Watson.

"Joe Louis's brother used to live right down the street," said Watson. "And every year Joe Louis himself would come to town to help us raise money for the APA. The kids used to get real excited, because they knew that he was coming to town."

Since that time, the APA has expanded and now operates the Coleman Center, located on Beverley Road. Then they started another program there 5 years ago, according to Watson.

"My wife wanted to do something to help the hungry right here in Romulus," he said. "So, Pat's Pantry began 5 years ago."

Pat's Pantry began by just giving out a few items of food here and there, according to Pat Watson.

"The first year we started helping about 100 people in the

area who were in serious need of some help," said Watson. "Then the pantry just began to grow and grow, and now we help about 400 people each month."

Pat's Pantry purchases food from Gleaners, a major distributor for food pantries and food banks within Wayne County. The pantry distributes food on the third and fourth Thursday of the month to needy families who meet eligibility requirements.

Applicants must show proof of income and valid identification. If they are found eligible, Watson said she runs down and prepares a box right away.

"We try to get things done fast, so people don't have to wait," she said. "We give people a little of everything we can, vegetables, fruit, meats, canned goods. It all depends on what we have available."

Pat's Pantry operates with donations from the public, as well as some federal aid, but the Pantry is in need of help to feed hungry Romulus residents.

"I don't think some people realize that there are people in our own city that are hungry," said Watson. "We need all the donations we can get, especially around the holidays."

To donate to Pat's Pantry contact (734) 331-2797 or send a donation made out to the APA, c/o Pantry/Soup Kitchen at 35351 Beverley Road, Romulus, Mich., 48174.

Crime

FROM PAGE 1

property crime rate go up."

Leacher said the department is doing everything possible to combat the rise in property crimes with the resources that are available.

"Crime goes in spurts," said Leacher. "When we start to see things get out of hand in a certain area, we will up the patrols in that area to try to stop something before it really starts."

Leacher said the department uses a number of different resources including targeting certain areas, utilizing undercover resources and confidential informants to do that.

"Things can be quiet in an

area for a long time," said Leacher. "Then all of a sudden a group of kids or outsiders begin hitting businesses and homes in that area. It all goes in spurts, but when we detect one we use all of our resources to stop it."

Leacher said the department is doing the best it can with what it's got right now. He said that it gets harder as more and more things get cut, not so much from the local government, but from the state and federal government.

"Once something gets cut, it gets hard, because that resource is no longer available," said Leacher. "But we are very aggressive with seeking out ways to enhance our ability to do our jobs with different grants that are available to us. I think we are doing a really good job right now."

Funding

FROM PAGE 1

to bring more parity in school funding. It has helped, but many districts still don't receive the same levels of funding as districts in more well-to-do areas.

"It makes it difficult for us to compete with teachers and all sorts of staff issues," Weaver said. "We feel like we're the best

around, but the bottom line is that teachers are like any other employees. If they have other options that we can't provide for them, they'll go elsewhere."

The effects of Proposal A can also be offset by community growth, too. Districts like Northville have been fortunate because they continually receive an influx of new students every year.

"We're more fortunate than most, because we've been able

to offset the cuts with more students," she said. "Those that have the same number of students or who may have lost a few are really hurting."

Weaver said the problem needs to be fixed, if not this year than certainly the year after. Baracy agreed.

"The state has been in crisis," he said. "They've pushed their financial crises onto the backs of the locals and, quite frankly, enough is enough."

Calendar of events

Goodfellows paper sale this weekend

The Romulus Goodfellows will take to the streets tomorrow and Saturday selling papers to raise funds to help make sure there is no child in Romulus without a Christmas. Each year the Romulus Goodfellows give food and presents to more than 300 needy families in the area. To make a donation call (734) 355-4577.

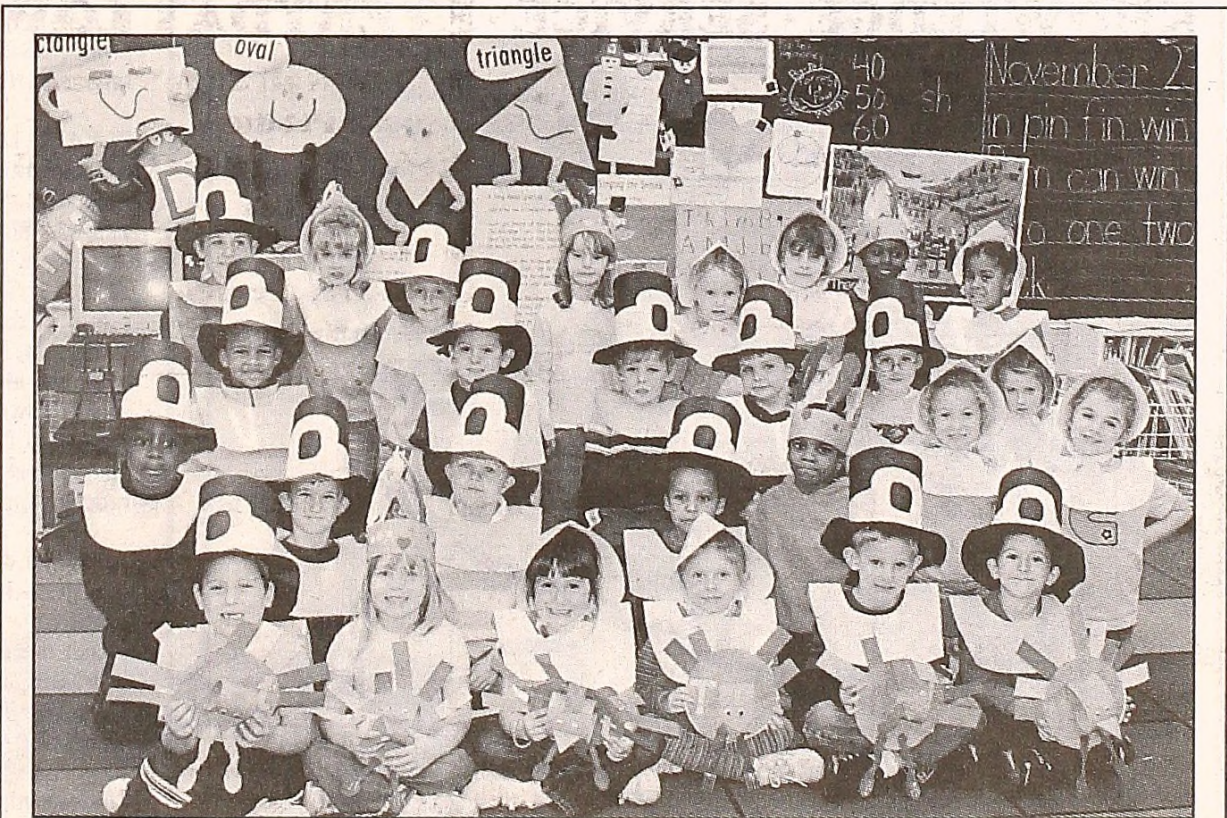
Tree lighting ceremony tomorrow

The city Christmas tree will be lit with the help of Mayor Alan Lambert, Santa Claus and a special guest this year at 6 p.m. tomorrow at Historic Park. Lambert will also provide Santa with a key to the city. The event will then move

to Progressive Hall, near Five Points, where refreshments will be served. Children can also get their picture taken with Santa for \$2.

Lunch and Story with Santa set

Santa Claus will be making a stop at the Romulus Recreation Center located on Bibbins Road, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Saturday Dec. 11, for hot dogs, refreshments and to read a story to children of all ages. The \$3 cost per child includes lunch. Pictures with Santa will also be available for \$2. Pre-registration for the event is required at the Recreation Center by Friday, Dec. 10.



Turkey 'dressing'

Kindergarten students at Barth Elementary School got into the spirit of Thanksgiving this year. Students in Karen Richards class got all dressed up for turkey day in their homemade pilgrim and Pocahontas costumes, while they learned about the pilgrims' first Thanksgiving with Native Americans.

OBITUARIES

SZOKE, Frank Ervin

Frank Ervin Szoke, 82, a lifelong resident of New Boston, died Nov. 15 in the same house in which he was born.

Among his survivors are his siblings, Mary Violet Tapka of New Boston and Jesse (Juanita "Dolly") Szoke of New Boston; a sister-in-law, Lucy Szoke; a nephew, Alan (Maureen) Szoke; nieces, Marilyn (Robert) Ford and Doris (Todd) LaBelle, and seven great-nieces and nephews.

Mr. Szoke was retired from the Romulus Public School District.

Funeral services were at St. Stephens Catholic Church, where Mr. Szoke was a member, with Father Alexander J. Wytrwal as celebrant.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

KISER, Lawrence

Lawrence Bradley Kiser, 51, of Belleville, formerly of New Boston, died Nov. 18.

Among his survivors are his wife, Loretta Kay (Hamilton) Kiser; children, Sara C. Hamilton, Phillip E. Sohoze and Elizabeth F. Sohoza, all of Belleville; his father, James Kiser of New Boston, and his sister, Marybeth Marz of New Boston.

Mr. Kiser was employed at Bob Saks Oldsmobile in Farmington Hills for more than 10 years.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with pastor Robb J. Hudspeth officiating.

ROUNDTREE, John G.

John G., Roundtree, Sr., 84, of Westland, died Nov. 15.

Among his survivors are his wife Edith R. (McCoy) Roundtree; children, Kay (I. Donald) Penson of Dublin, OH and John

Gregory II; granddaughter, Jill, and godson, Dr. Paul Christopher Walker.

Mr. Roundtree was an assistant principal with the Detroit Public Schools. He was a Master Sergeant with the Civilian Conservation Corps, later becoming a chapter president. He was involved with the Tuskegee Airmen for many years.

Mr. Roundtree worked at Rouge Steel, the U.S. Post Office and the Detroit Department of Street and Railways while pursuing his college degree in education. He earned his masters degree while teaching full time.

Mr. Roundtree was active with the Detroit Institute of Arts-Friends of Africa Art (Bal African), New Detroit, Wayne State Alumni, Michigan Tax Review Board and the Yankee Air Museum.

Funeral services were at Peoples Community Church in Detroit.

Interment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Chapel of Chimes in Westland.

LUCAS, James C.

James C. Lucas, 81, of Belleville, died Nov. 18.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 56 years, Doris Marie Lucas; sons, James (Debra) Lucas of Ypsilanti and Jeffery (Jennie) Lucas of Belleville; a daughter-in-law, Ruby Fester of Tecumseh; sisters, Elsie Holderness of Fowlerville, Ann (Joe) Davis and Gertrude Howe, both of Howell; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Lucas served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Funeral services were at Lincoln Community United Methodist Church where Mr. Lucas was a member, with the Rev. Beverly Marr officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

WILKERSON, Marie

Marie M. Wilkerson, 78, of Taylor, died Nov. 26.

Among her survivors are her sons, Edward (Lorraine) Wilkerson of Romulus, Phillip (Helen) Wilkerson of Taylor, Gerald (Jean) Wilkerson of Romulus and John (Chico) Wilkerson of Leesville, LA;

a brother, Dick Bowlin of Tennessee; a sister, Betty Bish of Pembroke, NC; 14 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with the Rev. William Kren of Community United Methodist Church in Romulus officiating.

Interment was at Romulus Cemetery.

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1954 PA 188 Proceedings Notice of Belle Harbor and Lake Crest Subdivisions Engineering Special Assessment Roll Hearing Charter Township of Van Buren Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND IN THE BELLE HARBOR AND LAKE CREST SUBDIVISIONS AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the Belle Harbor and Lake Crest Subdivisions Engineering Special Assessment District benefited by the road project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the development of design and construction plans to repave public roads in the Belle Harbor and Lake Crest Subdivisions and work incidental thereto within the aforesaid Belle Harbor and Lake Crest Subdivisions Engineering Special Assessment District as more particularly described in the proposal by Spaulding DeDecker Associates, Inc., dated 31 August 2004 on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the owners of said parcels of land chose to proceed with the project for a cost not to exceed \$127,500.00 and an additional contingency of not more than \$12,750.00.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said special assessment district, with the exception of the two outlots accessing Belleville Lake and known as V-125-83-086-01-0046-005 and V-125-83-086-02-0001-000, will be \$642.68.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on December 7, 2004 for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie D. Payne
Township Clerk
46425 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Publish: December 2, 2004

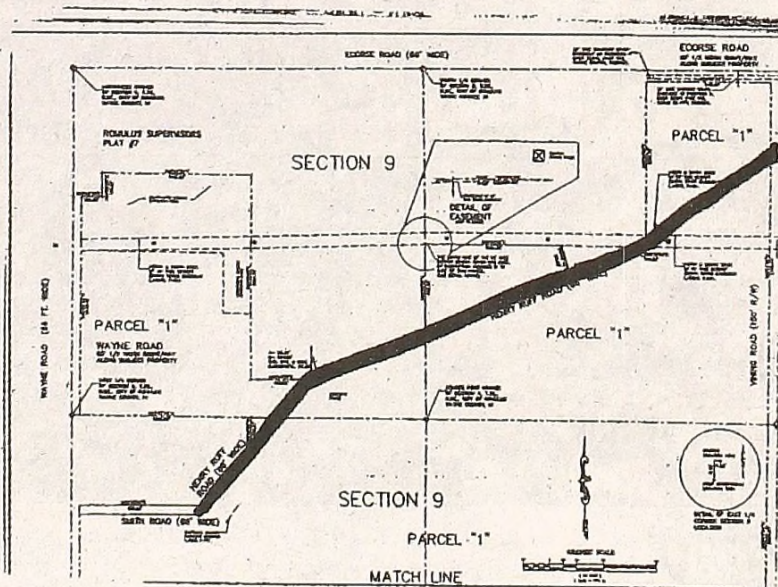
NOTICE CITY OF ROMULUS ROAD VACATION

Notice is hereby given, that the City Council of the City of Romulus, has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed vacation of the following road:

That portion of Henry Ruff Road from the Vining Road right-of-way to Smith Road - along the entire length of the Metro World property.

Written comments may be submitted to the attention of Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485, no later than 12:00 o'clock noon, Monday, December 13, 2004.

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk



THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING

Publish: December 2, 2004



“The Blues have better ideas for better health.”

Ernie Harwell

“At Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, we’re committed to helping our members live longer and live better. As the Blues’ Health and Fitness Advocate, I enjoy the chance to tell you about the many programs and services the Blues offer that can help us get healthy and stay healthy, and help keep quality health care affordable.”



When it comes to your health, it's good to have connections.

When a medical condition suddenly changes your life, sometimes it's hard to know just where to turn or what to do. That's why we introduced BlueHealthConnection®—our personalized health management program that offers a variety of ways to help our members take charge of their health care. It offers a wealth of resources they need to navigate through health problems and lead better lives. Including access to professional nurses who can offer health education, tips, and hope. With BlueHealthConnection, you're always just a phone call away from sound information, the kind you can use to make the best health care decisions for you and your family.



Saving money with generic drugs is an easy pill to swallow.

One of the ways Blue Cross is helping our members save out-of-pocket expenses is by urging everyone to get the facts about generic drugs. The FDA requires generic drugs to meet the same standards for strength, purity and quality, and to contain the same active ingredients as the brand-name drugs. Which means that generics give you the same therapeutic effects—for less. To date, Blues members have saved more than \$15 million in out-of-pocket costs due to lower copays for generics. There are times when a generic equivalent is not available. But choosing a generic when possible can help hold down rising health care costs—and can add up to extra money in your pocket. To learn more about what generics can do for you, visit our Web site at www.theunadvertisedbrand.com.



WalkingWorksSM for us all.

Walking is the simple way to improve your health. Just three to five times a week for 30 minutes can make a big difference in your overall fitness and well-being. With the Blues' WalkingWorks program, we give our members a simple, easy and fun way to get the aerobic exercise needed for good health, with little risk of injury. It's a step we're glad to take to help folks live better—and help keep health care affordable for us all.

Think of it as play-by-play for healthier living.

Look for Ernie's column each week in this newspaper.

For easy-to-follow advice on staying healthy, look for “Take It From Ernie.” This column, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, brings you words of wisdom from Hall of Fame broadcaster Ernie Harwell.

Each week, Ernie highlights simple steps we can all take to improve our health and our quality of life. You'll find entertaining information on the benefits of walking, the value of using less expensive generic drugs and simple ways to stay healthy and fit. And nobody's a better example than Ernie himself, Blue Cross Blue Shield's Health and Fitness Advocate, who makes healthy choices and exercises every day at 86 years of age.

So read “Take It From Ernie,” and as Ernie says, “Take care of your health before it's lonngggg gone.”

The truth about regular physical activity – at any age.

By Ernie Harwell



While it's not uncommon for some adults to think they're either too old or too frail to exercise, nothing could be further from the truth. Regular physical activity brings health benefits and greater well-being at any age.

Regular physical activity helps improve muscle strength, stamina, balance, joint mobility, flexibility, agility, overall physical coordination, metabolism, blood pressure, weight control, even the treatment and prevention of heart disease. It also helps slow bone loss and lowers the risk of developing adult onset diabetes. It even improves your mood.

Of course, I recommend three simple rules for regular physical activity in life's later innings: Have a physician on your team, take a lot of intentional walks and remember that, as Yogi Berra is fond of saying, “It ain't over 'til it's over.”

And please remember to take care of your health before it's lonngggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, “the voice of the Detroit Tigers” for more than four decades, retired after 54 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with “Miss Lulu,” his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled “Life After Baseball,” is available at bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



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bcbsm.com

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

OPINION

A united front

The auditorium at Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn is destined to be a pretty crowded place tonight.

That's when school officials from throughout Wayne County and the State of Michigan, along with dozens of concerned parents, will get together in a forum to discuss adequate school funding. The thought behind it is that perhaps one loud collective voice, followed by the persistent impact of hundreds, if not thousands of individual voices, will have a greater impact in the ongoing effort to receive more funding for education from the State of Michigan.

It's a good approach, combining all the lobbying power of several organizations, like the Wayne County Association of School Boards, Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, Tri-County Alliance for Public Education and the Wayne County School Superintendents Association with the passion of some angry parents to make a point.

And that point is that schools need more money. It's a pretty common point, actually – you can hear it from all sectors of society. Municipalities cry foul when their state-shared revenue is threatened. Schools cry foul when their foundation allowance is decreased or frozen – because revenue is the only thing that is frozen. Costs continue to rise. No matter how well a school district or municipality manages funds and expenses, there are costs that cannot be controlled, particularly the increasing costs of health insurance and retirements. Teachers retire as state employees – districts essentially get a bill for that every year.

It'd be nice if this forum sparked some kind of fix to Proposal A, or another kind of funding formula that is obviously needed. There are too many voices from too many different sectors of society calling out the need for some kind of help.

But, with the state in a fiscal crisis, it's unclear of where this help will – or can – come from. Let's face it: asking for more money for education is an easy thing to do. It's an easy thing for politicians to promise, too, as is a guarantee to stop cuts in state shared revenue. The fix is obviously much harder to come by.

Let's hope this forum points out a good first step.

A balance of power

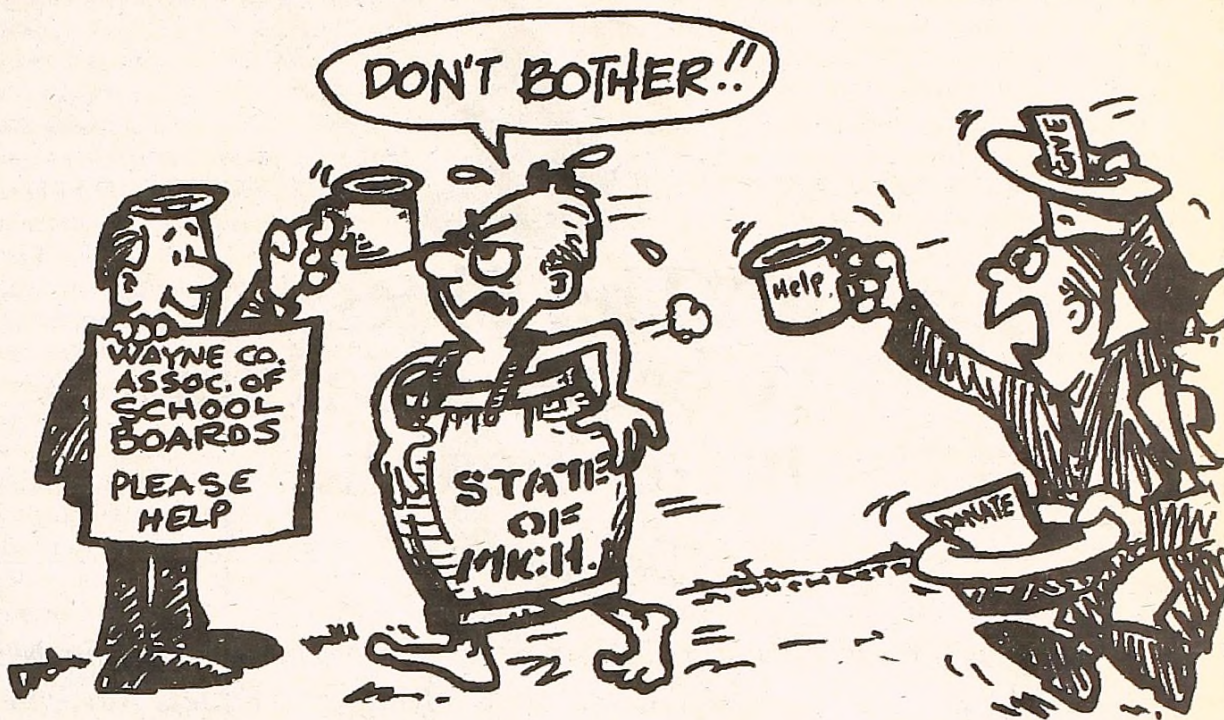
It seems that the process of revising the 40-year-old city charter in Inkster has moved along smoothly since the charter commission voted to keep the current council-manager form of government.

Though the commission kept that form of government, it also resolved to explore granting more powers to the mayor. These additional powers seemed conventional at first, providing veto powers with a 2/3 override, and proposing appointments on city boards with city council approval.

But now it appears the commission is exploring powers – some at the suggestion of other city council members – that could create a co-manager/mayor system. Some of the changes would allow for broad powers – such as working on a 50/50 basis with the manager to hire and fire department heads and appoint the director of the auxiliary police department (the appointment of the auxiliary police director is currently the responsibility of the chief of police). It was also suggested that possibly a "Mayor's Court" could be implemented to handle civil infractions – which could remove cases from the overburdened 22nd District Court.

A budget and staff person for the mayor, with funds available for emergencies was also proposed. An emergency would be considered a natural disaster like flooding, fire, storms and the like, according to commission chairman Dr. Terrel LeCesne.

See Mayor, page 7



It's 'deja vu all over again'

One of my favorite movies in recent years was *Groundhog Day*, starring Bill Murray.

Many people may know the story: it's about a television weatherman stuck in the same town, doomed to repeat the same day again and again until he finds some way to break the cycle.

That's about all that filtered through my head Tuesday morning. It was 8 a.m. and I was in downtown Northville. That meant I was at a Northville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting and that meant I was listening to a discussion about parking.

Again.

The members of that board have been discussing the parking situation in downtown Northville for years. I know because I spent a good portion of my time in the last couple of years covering it, writing about the proposal to build a parking deck or two downtown, listening to parking gripes, ad infinitum.

In fact, I covered it so extensively that I started to think about redecorating my house with solid yellow lines and little orange dots. I mean, it made my head hurt.

It's no wonder that I would

think about Murray's predicament in the film when, a year after the defeat of the parking deck proposal, members of the board were still looking at alternatives.

This time around, there were a few new wrinkles to the plan. Anyone that has been in downtown Northville lately can see that members of the board were

“
I suppose
I will never
understand
the reluctance
of people to walk a few
blocks in a cool little
town like Northville.
”

right when they said they needed more parking – or at least better management of it – years ago. A new development on Main Street, long discussed and now in the construction phase, has turned several dozen former parking spaces into a huge crater, which will ultimately serve as the foundation for a multi-story mixed-use building.

One of the things the DDA board is looking at to fix the problem on a short-term basis – and hopefully identify a need for the long term – is a parking shuttle system. In fact they approved a test phase for the program Tuesday morning. It would allow employees to park at Northville Downs and take a shuttle bus into work, a few blocks away, at most. It's set to operate from 7:45 – 10:15 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday as soon as all the particulars are worked out. It would be free throughout the holiday season. Well, free to those who take advantage of it, that is. It will cost the DDA about \$1,050 a week.

I suppose I will never understand the reluctance of people to walk a few blocks in a cool little town like Northville. I often walk from my office here in Wayne down to Wayne City Hall – along Michigan Avenue, past a few boarded up buildings and ill-lit alleyways, at all times of the day and night. People sometimes honk and holler at me and the people in the bars look at me like I'm the headless horseman, at that.

See Parking, page 7

Are you rushing toward an early death?

I'm thinking about doing a standup comedy act about death and funerals. Hey, we're all going to do it, and a lot of us are doing all we can now to speed the process up.

I'd ask: "Got a cigarette?" "Yeah," someone would shout. That's when I'd ask: "Why?" "Huh?"

Ah, the things we do to hurry up the end. The lies we believe. "Cigarettes aid digestion." That's an old deathstick pitch, but, if you think about it, it's right – there is no indigestion when you're dead.

"You've come a long way, baby." Remember that one? Smoke it up, baby, fill that

pretty face with wrinkles, rot those lungs, and wheeze a lot and smell like camel dung – that really turns the guys on.

And, how about guys? The heck with 'em, I don't kiss guys.

So, "Relax with a Camel." Talk about weapons of mass destruction?

What a country. Tobacco companies consciously and openly practice premeditated murder, doing all they can to sell addiction to kids and make huge profit doing it. And, our government chases those other drug dealers.

Did you know that tobacco companies own the all the casket making companies? Talk about a sweet deal. First they kill you,

and then sell your kin the box to put you in. And, it's flip-top box at that.

You don't believe it? Since the tobacco gang took over, I'll bet you haven't heard anyone coffin.

The 20-year medical study actually measuring the effects of second-hand smoke shows, without doubt, that second-hand smoke is as dangerous as direct smoke and does indeed cause heart problems. (British Medical Journal, June 2004)

See Smoking, page 7

JOURNAL

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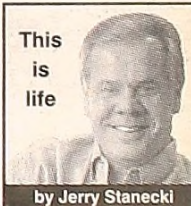
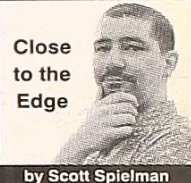
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Mayor

FROM PAGE 6

This is where commissioners need to be careful. All of the issues – particularly overcrowding at the court – need to be addressed. But too much power for the mayor could usurp the authority of the city manager, which the commission overwhelmingly voted to keep 2 months ago.

A city manager is a professional hired by the city council to run the day-to-day affairs of the city. Joyce Parker, who was hired this summer, is paid \$90,000 per year to manage the city. She has shown herself to be a capable manager in a short time, and we're not sure she signed on to have her authority reduced.

We're not saying the mayor shouldn't have additional authorities, we just think some of the things on the table now would cause additional friction, not to

mention a burdensome expense, on the city government. Nobody likes to be micromanaged.

Commissioners, to their credit, have asked Parker to attend a future meeting to discuss how a

But too much power for the mayor could usurp the authority of the city manager, which the commission overwhelmingly voted to keep two months ago.

change in the role of the mayor would affect her position. But if she doesn't think the changes are positive, she could be in a difficult spot because she is appointed at the will of the mayor and city council.

The emergency funds raise another concern. Taking care of

natural disasters is the responsibility of first responders, not the mayor. In fact, during the last big environmental issue – the black-out of August 2003 – the mayor couldn't be reached to declare a state of emergency, according to police officials.

A mayor's court could be feasible if indeed it is legal in the State of Michigan. Other states like Ohio and West Virginia have the courts, which employ a magistrate, to handle code violations and traffic violations. But a lot more research needs to be done to see if taking the cases out of the 22nd District Court – where Judge Sylvia James has the undisputed authority to level punishment against offenders in all cases or scenarios – would be advantageous.

It's important to say that the commission has not voted on any of these issues yet, and that they appear to be doing a deliberate analysis of the items they place into the charter. Let's hope they continue the thoughtful process.

Free holiday dinner offered

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Wayne County residents looking for a safe place to have a free Christmas meal with all of the trimmings are invited to attend the Second Annual Christmas Dinner at Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Westland.

Kelly Goolsby, who planned the dinner, said she's hoping the church can build on the momentum of last year's event and bring in more hungry people for dinner.

"It was the first year we tried something like this, and we served about 100 people," she said. "We think we can do better than that this year. We just want everyone who might not have a place to go to come in and have a great dinner."

The dinner is scheduled for Christmas Eve, and an army of church volunteers is helping make the food and set the church up for the event, Goolsby said.

The menu will be a traditional mix of meat, breads and vegetables.

"It's just a great event," she said. "I think everyone enjoyed themselves."

Though Gethsemane is actually located in Westland, she said the church draws people from other neighborhoods – and all are invited to attend.

Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church is located at 29066 Eton St. in Westland. Limited transportation will be provided for housebound people and others with a vehicle. For more information, call the church at (734) 721-2557.

Parking

FROM PAGE 6

but that might just because of my hat.

I mean, how discouraging must it be for the people who sit on that board to put all this effort into developing ideas to make their community more walkable – a concept that is at the base of the whole 'cool cities' initiative – only to have people want a shuttle bus in which to get around. Good luck getting a grant for that.

There are a few legitimate concerns, granted, to having

employees park a respectful distance away from their places of work. Senior citizens and handicapped people should receive additional consideration. But some of the overriding concerns seem to be about safety. Safety, in Northville. I haven't looked at the crime statistics or anything, but I would guess that the probability of someone being kidnapped off the streets in downtown Northville are about the same as a shuttle bus being carjacked – or bus jacked – in downtown Northville. The proposed schedule doesn't address downtown employees who might have a legitimate concern for safety – those that work in the bars and

restaurants that get off work late at night.

The parking nut in Northville is going to be a difficult one to crack. And who knows, maybe this will prove to be a viable option, one that people will pay for or on which the merchants can capitalize. One thing is certain, though, if the parking management plan ever comes around to pointing out the need for a parking deck, again, the members of the DDA board will be able to say that they've tried everything else. Well, except for the outdoor escalators....

Smoking

FROM PAGE 6

The study followed more than 2000 people for 20 years. The results suggest that inhaling somebody else's tobacco smoke could increase your chances of a heart attack by as much as 60 percent.

Six states have laws banning indoor smoking covering workplaces, bars and restaurants. Hallelujah.

What are we waiting for? Take action. Demand our lawmakers enact a law banning smoking in public places.

Except, maybe in a cemetery.

It's time that those addicted to smoking indulge their drug where it can't hurt others. And, that's not in front of an exit from a building.

Stop denial, deal with your addiction before you get some help from masked men with scalpels that crack your chest open, like I did. Or, worse.

You can beat the addiction; you just have to be willing.

To order Jerry's latest book, *Life is a Joke and God Wrote it!* (\$19.50 includes taxes, shipping and handling) write to P.O. Box 121, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303.

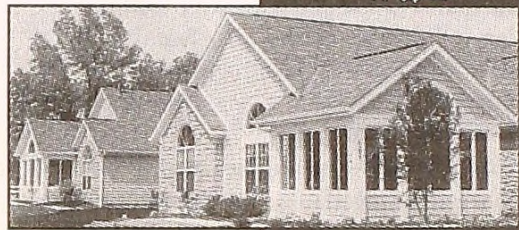
To contact Jerry go to www.jerrystanec-k.com. If you'd like to receive a weekly.

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County OKs grants for special recreation

John Counts
Staff Writer

Wayne County officials have decided to put some funds to use in a special way.

Recently they approved \$200,000 to be spent during a 3-year period for recreation programs for disabled populations in western Wayne County communities.

The Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation program (WWCTR) will serve disabled residents of Belleville, Canton Township, Inkster, Plymouth, Northville, Romulus, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township, Wayne and Westland, among others.

"This will enable people with special needs to do things they ordinarily wouldn't be able to do," said Jessica Hohenberger, the therapeutic services coordinator for WWCTR.

Hohenberger, a certified therapeutic recreation specialist, was hired by the joint communities to help develop the program, which includes trips to the theater, dances and athletic events. She said that it's not just important for people with disabilities to get out and experience different things—it's also important for them to socialize with other people. She encourages people of all ages and all disabilities to take advantage of the program.

Communities in western Wayne County have joined together in the past to provide recreation services for those with special needs, but never on the scale the grant makes possible. According to Jeff Rutter, assistant director of parks and recreation for the City of Wayne, his community has

been involved with Garden City and Westland in the past. But the community relations regarding these kinds of services were tenuous.

"Before this, everyone did their own thing," he said. "Now, we'll be able to do more things. We'll be able to do a lot of events. We're looking forward to being an active part in this new endeavor."

Canton Township Leisure Services is administrating the grant, but representatives from each community will take their place on a planning committee that will help determine and design the programs.

According to Jon LeFever, a youth development specialist with Canton Leisure Services, the events will take place all over western Wayne County. He said it was important to join together with other communities to pool resources.

"We like to be able to offer the same services to everybody in the community," LaFever said. "This gives people a chance."

Directors of WWCTR will host an event for those who want to know more about the programs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. The center is located at 15804 Michigan Ave. at Greenfield, a half mile east of the Southfield Freeway. Information about the programs and other upcoming events will be available at the open house. Those interested will also be able to talk to recreation representatives from the participating communities. There will also be games and refreshments. Admission to this event is free.

For more information, call Canton Township Leisure Services at (734) 394-5460.



"I remember as a kid lying awake for hours waiting for him. Heck, I remember doing it last year."

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The ultimate gift

Did Santa finally turn that rickety reindeer-driven sleigh in for something with a little more horsepower or is that the ultimate gift he hopes to stuff in someone's stocking this holiday season? Whatever the case may be he got it from Don Massey Cadillac in Plymouth. And whoever the recipient is can now tool around town in style all year around. What is the resale value of a magical faster-than-the-speed-of-light sleigh, anyway? And the lucky recipient of this gift must have been really, really good this year? How do you get on that list?

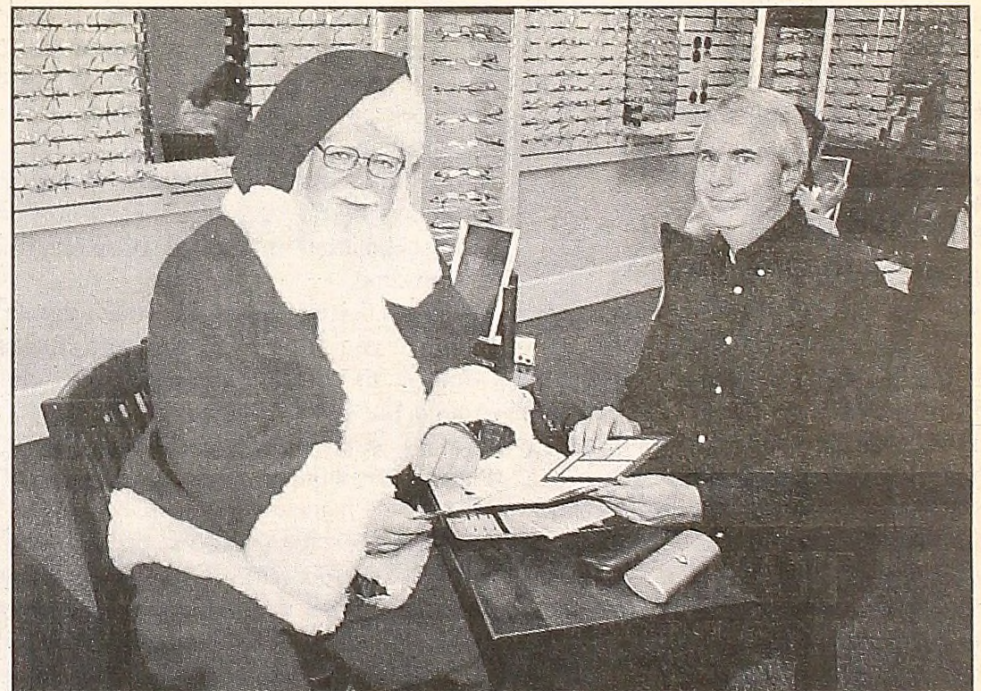
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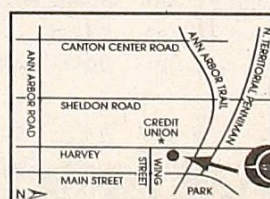
He's watching...

Santa Claus needs the right tools in his line of work, especially for this time of year because he's looking down on all us from the North Pole. That's why this year, he went straight to Dave Getschman, owner of Forest Place Optical, who knows just what Santa needs to determine who's naughty or nice, a set of new glasses. Yes, Santa's coming to town, and he's doing it in style with a new pair of glasses from Forest Place Optical.

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Belleville Historical Society Calendar now on sale

The Belleville Area Historical Society 2005 Centennial Calendars are now on sale at the museum.

The year 2005 marks an important milestone in the history of the Belleville and Van Buren Community. Exactly 100 years ago, in the spring of 1905, the legislature of the State of Michigan voted to incorporate the village of Belleville. This special calendar edition has been designed as a keepsake of the centennial year with several special events planned for the city's 100th anniversary.

The 2005 calendar contains a brief history of the community, and many vintage photos of its earliest basic insti-

The Belleville Area Historical Society 2005 Centennial Calendars are now on sale at the museum.

tutions, such as Third Street, the Methodist Church and the Masonic Temple. Calendar dates highlight several important happenings of the first decade of the 20th cen-

tury, when such things as corn flakes, Crayolas and paved roads were first introduced.

The cost is \$6, and calendars are available to Belleville Area Historical Society members at a discounted price of \$5. They can be purchased at the museum during regular business hours—Tuesday through Saturday, noon-4 p.m.

Calendars will also be available at several area businesses and can be purchased by mail.

For more information, contact the museum at 734-697-1944.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD NOVEMBER 8, 2004 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller.

Excused: Debbie Romak, Michael Prybyla, William Wadsworth.

Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as amended.*

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

04-446

2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 1, 2004,

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff~ Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried.

04-447

3A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the Planning Commission and approve PC-2004-023/24 a request for Special Land Use to establish an equipment rental and repair facility for ALTA Lift Trucks in an MT-2, Industrial Transportation 2 District on a parcel of land located on the south side of Smith Road east of Middlebelt Road, DP#82-80-047-99-0020-000 subject to the recommendations of the City Planner, letter dated October 11, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

04-448

3B. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with Planning Commission and approve PC-2004-028, a request to amend the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance Article XXII, Planned Development Regulations consistent with the administrative review of the PDA Text Amendment recommendation of the City Planning Consultant Langworthy Strader LeBlanc and Associates, Inc., letter dated September 16, 2004 and October 6, 2004. Further, to introduce an Ordinance to amend Appendix A-Zoning, Article XXII Planned Development Area Regulations, for the purpose of providing a degree of flexibility in the regulation of land development and arrangement of uses for a more creative approach to development, taking advantage of special land characteristics.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None,
Motion Carried

04-449

4A. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to adopt a memorial resolution to the family of Eleanor Green.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

4. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04450

5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Public Safety Director, Charles Kirby and Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and award Bid #04/05-09 Romulus Police Department Van Conversion, to the lowest qualified bidder, W-Dee Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$2,675.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

04-451

5B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of Building Department Director, Randy McMahan and Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and award Bid #04/05-10 Two (2) Year Contractual Services Contract, Asbestos Testing, to the only bidder, Environmental Testing & Consulting.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

04-452

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of Public Safety Director, Charles Kirby and Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and award Bid #04/05-12 Police K-9 Dog, Training and Equipment to the lowest bidder, K9 ATF, in the amount of \$7,700.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

04-453

5D. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of D.P.W. Director, Carl Brooks and Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and award Bid #04/05-15 Premium Sidewalk Snow and Ice Melter to the lowest bidder, Lower Huron Supply for the 2004/2005 snow removal season.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays-None
Motion Carried.

04-454

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with City Clerk Linda Choate, and schedule a Public Hearing to vacate Henry Ruff Road along the entire length of the Metro World property, from the Vining Road right-of-way to Smith Road on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Romulus Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

04-455

11A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to exclude checks #8047 in the amount of \$73.50, and check #8045 in the amount of \$142.53 from the disbursement of funds as listed in Warrant 04-21, paying a total of amount of Six Hundred, Thirty Three Thousand, Five Hundred, Thirteen Dollars and Twenty Seven Cents (\$633,513.27).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes- Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

04-456

11B. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus do disburse funds as listed in Warrant 04-21E, in the amount of Fourteen Thousand, Seven Hundred Dollars and Zero Cent (\$14,700.00).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 8, 2004.

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: December 2, 2004

Keeping the faith

Mission work takes local minister to Qatar and Pakistan

Scott Spielman
Editor

Pastor Dave Stewart of the First United Methodist Church in Wayne learned something

recently. You can't run from fate forever.

Stewart, who has helmed the growing church for 4 years now, took part in his first mission trip last month – more than four

decades after he first felt the call to God at the age of 16.

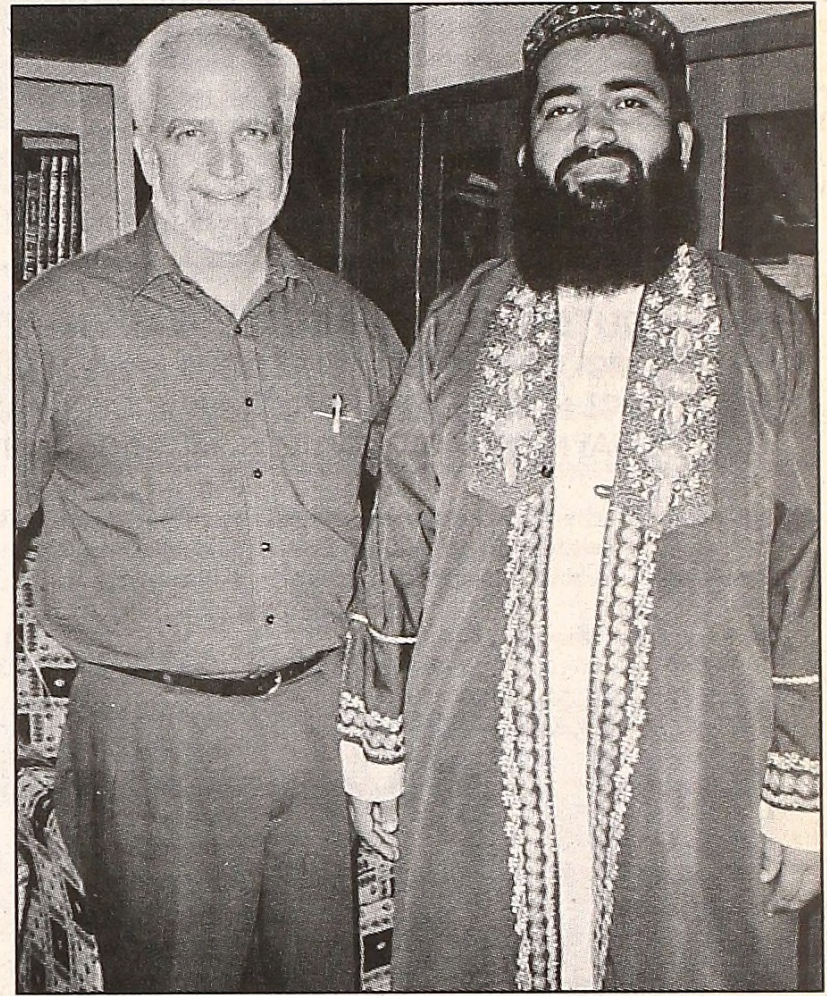
"I ran from being a pastor for 19 years, until I found myself in a seminary," he said. "I continued to run from the missionary thing."

That all changed in January, when Stewart went to a conference sponsored by the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship (TACF), in the shadow of Pearson International Airport in Toronto. That 10-year-old church is in the midst of a revival, as well – they host services six nights a week.

It was there that Stewart said he again received the call for missions work, in the form of Randy Clark, who spoke about the Global Awareness Mission effort.

"He said 'If you want to have your faith increase, go on a mission.' So I put my name on the list," Stewart said.

He received another call later that summer, inviting him to take part in a missions trip to the middle east. He accepted, and months later found himself as part of a 10-member crew on their way to Qatar and Pakistan. The other members of the mission were from churches scattered throughout the United States, from places as diverse as New Mexico and Massachusetts;

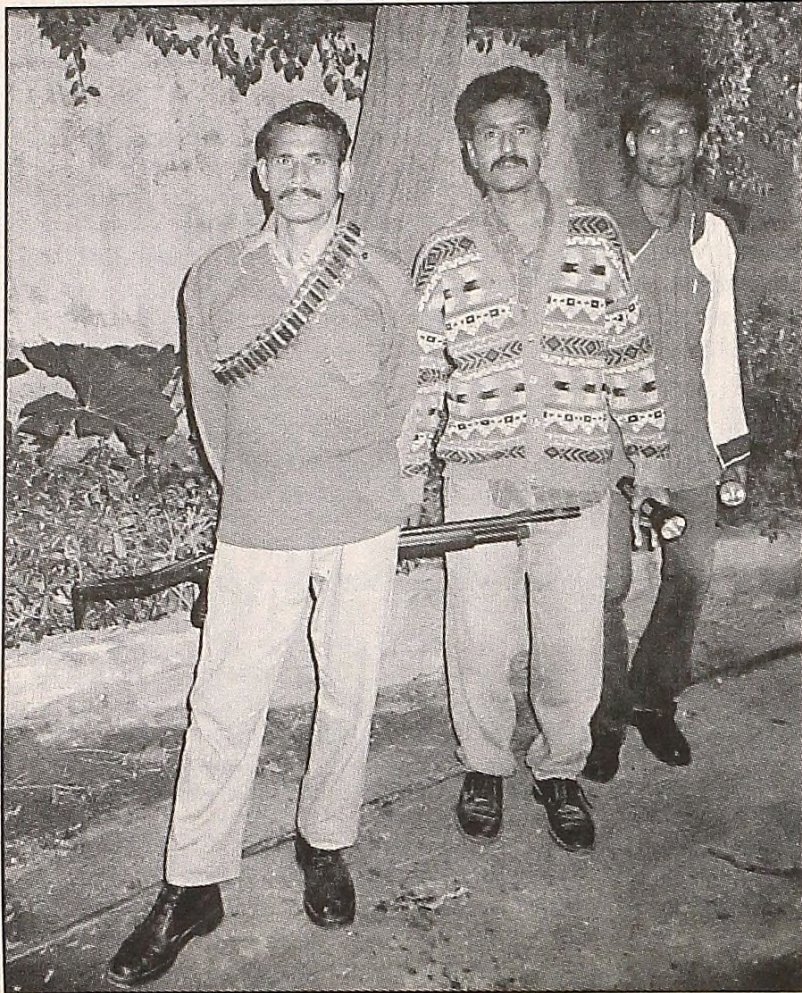


Mollana Abdul Kahbear Aziz (right), head of the largest Christian mosque in Pakistan, gave Pastor Dave Stewart a personal tour of the religious building during a 10-day mission trip to the Middle East.

Stewart had never met any of them before. minister to the minority Christian population, minister to

The purpose of the trip was three-fold, he said. They were to

See Faith, page 11



Armed guards were stationed around Christian mosques in Pakistan, where the religion is allowed, but sometimes dangerous.



A 'cut' above the rest

Everyone knows that the holidays can be a 'hairy' time of the year. That must have been why Santa was spotted shopping for awesome gifts at Salon Awesome. He came in for a quick wash and styling to impress Mrs. Claus and, with owner Rachelle Fryd's help, left with a Christmas bag full of other goodies – perfect gifts to stuff stockings and to place under the tree. And, Santa found that gift certificates to Salon Awesome were the perfect present for several of the elves' wives.



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Great expectations

Mothers-to-be may be providing job security for Santa Claus and he appreciates their efforts. For several expectant mother's on his list, he traveled to Mia Bella in Plymouth, a store geared for those who may be expecting a different kind of gift this holiday season. The shopping expert found just what he was looking for to delight several of the Elves' wives with the help of Rosalie Whyman, left, her daughter, Kelly Karadsheh who owns Mia Bella, and Mia Karadsheh, her daughter. Santa also found some unique children's clothing in sizes that will even fit the expected baby elves.



mommy-to-be and baby boutique

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Faith

FROM PAGE 11

‘tent-maker’ missionaries, those individuals who were in the foreign country undercover to foster the Christian faith. They worked as English teachers or construction workers, and hosted worship services in homes. The third purpose was to reach out – on a limited basis – to the Muslim population.

“Things were a little heightened for us because we were in Ramadan,” Stewart said. “Religious fervor was up, and people were a little grumpy because they hadn’t eaten enough.”

Their first stop in the 10-day journey was in Qatar, where Christianity could not be practiced openly. Stewart guessed that there were about 50 house churches in the city, all of them in bland buildings with no outdoor signage. Those interested in worshipping there usually learned about them through word of mouth, he said.

He visited several, worshipping in basements and reaching out to a small portion of the population. They worshipped during the day on Fridays, because that was a traditional worship day for Muslims.

The second stage of the mission trip took Stewart from oil-rich Qatar to the impoverished Pakistan. Stewart said that was an eye-opening experience, traveling from a country where Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs)

were the preferred mode of transportation among the high rise buildings, to a place where motorscooters and donkeys were more prevalent. It was not uncommon to see merchants selling things in the streets, and goats eating garbage nearby.

“After we left the wealth of Qatar, the poverty of Pakistan was shocking,” Stewart said.

Christianity was legal in Pakistan, but the relationship between the two religions could be an uneasy one. Stewart said armed guards were posted outside of Christian mosques, but people were allowed to acknowledge the religion publicly.

“The downside is that the churches occasionally get shot up or bombed by terrorists,” Stewart said.

It was there that he was allowed to tour the Christian mosques and take part in worship services and healing meetings. The type of worship in that country was generally far more open-minded than in the U.S., according to Stewart, who said he witnessed things that amazed him.

“It was like going back to the days of the Bible,” he said. “My eyes were open all the time, just soaking it in. I couldn’t get enough.”

Stewart said Clark’s initial statement proved to be more than true. He returned from the trip in the middle of November, with a renewed and increased sense of faith.

“I’ll probably do it again,” he said. “It was more than rewarding. My faith is increased.”



Motor scooters and three-wheeled taxis were the preferred mode of transportation in Pakistan, rather than the luxurious SUVs used in oil-rich Qatar.



A ‘tent-maker’ or undercover missionary reaches out to worshippers in Qatar, where Christianity is not a state-recognized religion.



Beach bound

Even before Santa sets out to deliver toys to all the kiddies, he's thinking about hitting the beach with Mrs., Claus. But first, Santa decided it was time to shop for a swimsuit for Mrs. Claus at Sunny J's, downtown Plymouth's premier swimsuit, lingerie, maternity bras, foundations and unmentionables destination. With a staff of friendly, knowledgeable fitters, Sunny J's professional staff helps Santa pick the right under and outer fittings for any occasion whether it's at the beach, the workshop, joyriding in the sleigh, or chasing around those mischievous elves.



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Christmas is Santa Claus' favorite season of the year- the gifts, the snow, the treats. But after a night of eating thousands of cookies and drinking gallons of milk left by children all over the world, Santa needs some help to get back in shape and fit into that red suit next year. Jolly Old St. Nick goes to Jazzercise in Plymouth after the holidays are over to slim down with the help of instructor Charlene Keller, far left, and owner Fran Farrell, standing at Santa's right. Jazzercise offers 38 classes per week, designed for all levels to help Santa and anyone else who may have gained a few pounds over the holidays, to lose the weight and get ready to fit into that bathing suit come summer. Jazzercise is celebrating its 35th year of operation and has been voted the number one dance fitness program in the world.

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Health insurance is ‘key issue’ for small business survival

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

It's been a tough 2 years for Jim Krebbs, the owner of Krebbs Tool in Belleville.

The business, which Krebbs founded in 1987, is working at full capacity despite the sluggish condition of the economy. Demand for his service – making tools and die casts for the canning industry – is healthy.

But Krebbs realized keeping his seven employees healthy was going take a toll in 2004 when he was notified that the cost of insuring his workers through Care Choices, a health maintenance organization (HMO) based in Farmington Hills, would increase again.

“This year is the most expensive year,” he said. “It has increased by 15 percent. The last 2 years have been tough.”

Krebbs' dilemma is not unusual for the many small business operators in Wayne County and the State of Michigan. The rising cost of providing health benefits to workers – which most employers pay at least a portion of – has climbed 180 percent during the past 5 years, according to figures compiled by the Michigan Small Business Association.

For small business owners—most of which employ less than 100 people—the effects of rising costs are staggering. What used to be considered a fringe benefit has become a major business issue that can cut into profitability, determine the level of employee retention and undermine productivity.

“This is one of the single biggest issues we face as small business people, and it's one people who work for large companies don't understand,” said Brian Fowler, the president and CEO of the Michigan Small Business Association. “It's not uncommon for premiums to be \$800 or \$1,000 for a family of four. Think of that if a person had to pay for it themselves. Small businesses pay the same amount because they don't get any discounts.”

Most companies are eligible for cost breaks and discounts once they employ 100 people. Fowler said the general rule is the bigger the group, the bigger the discount.

Linda Hall, the owner of Carriage House Promotions in Belleville, said her company currently offers health insurance. But she went through a period where she had to drop health insurance because of “income reasons.”

Fowler said morale issues crop up once benefits are curtailed or dropped. “Employees place an emphasis on health benefits almost as much as they do on compensation,” he said.

“I've seen people leave jobs strictly based on the level of coverage,” Fowler added. “Businesses that don't or can't cover their employees are often at a disadvantage, especially when it comes to retention.”

Krebbs said he had to shift some of the cost to employees by increasing co-pays this year.

“Obviously, to stay in competition with everybody else in the market you have to offer health care,” he said. “You not only have to offer it, but stay up to status quo.”

Fowler said there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The legislature passed an initiative which brought Blue Cross/Blue Shield and commercial insurers into line by allowing Blue Cross to charge older residents with more health problems bigger rates, which meant rates only went up by 10 percent in 2004.

“It's by no means something to be overjoyed about,” he said. “But it's a step in the right direction.”

Hospice hearts now on sale

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

As the holiday season approaches, handmade ornaments are once again available in exchange for a donation to the Arbor Hospice and Home Care 14th Annual Hearts of Remembrance. The proceeds from the sale are used to fund care for seriously ill patients throughout southeastern Michigan.

According to Glenda Gordon Kime, special events coordinator for Arbor Hospice, the fundraiser began as a way to help finance a grief support group for women who lost their spouses. Through the years, the non-profit organization has expanded to include in-home care for the terminally ill as well as bereavement programs for people of all ages.

“It's grown into one of our biggest fundraisers,” said Kime. “Last year, we raised \$77,000. This year our goal is to beat that.”

In return for a minimum donation of \$20 to the organization, an individual can obtain the latest ornament in the series.

“People collect the ornaments for themselves, or for people who have lost a loved one,” said Kime.

Earlier this year, more than 30 hospice volunteers worked together to create the heart shaped ornaments out of felt and ribbon. The organization never repeats a design. This year, the light color felt ornaments feature vine-like ribbon detailing in a heart shape as well as flower trim.

“We have two different colors – a pink background and a burgundy background,” said Kime. “We've made 3,000 hearts this year,” she added. “Last year, we sold about 2,600.”

The finished hearts may be viewed at the BraveHeart Grief Center, located at 126 Main Center in downtown Northville. Ornaments may be purchased by contacting Arbor Hospice and Home Care at 1-888-992-CARE (2273), ext. 152 or online at www.arborhospice.org. In addition to the BraveHeart Grief Center, the organization also maintains an office at 331 North Center St. in Northville.

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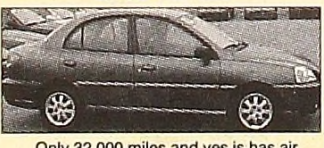
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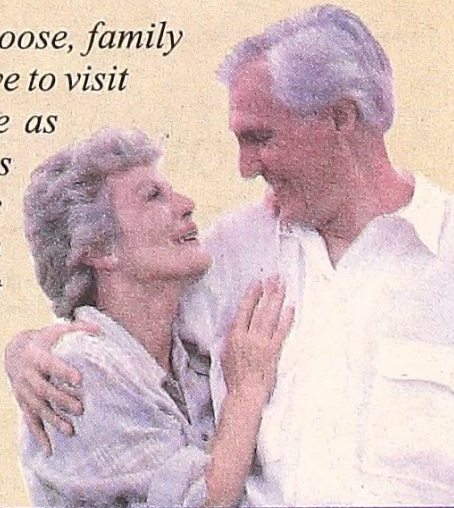
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THE SCENE



The not so great

ALEXANDER

Historical
biography
should be
'Stoned'

The bigger the epic, the harder the fall.

That is the point that *Alexander* proved during its opening weekend. This uninspiring wreckage of an epic bio pic of one of history's greatest leaders, Alexander the Great, is

a wasted three hours for anyone.

Some audience members left their seats early without waiting for a single ending credit, which was the best part of the film because it meant it was over. Later, the rest of the people in the theater cleared out like zombies shuffling out of a shopping mall the day after Turkey Day, shocked that they shopped from 4 a.m. until closing and managed not to find a single deal.

That's how it felt after watching *Alexander*: completely unfulfilling and exhausting.

On the way out, one viewer asked his girlfriend what was wrong. She responded with:

"My legs are numb from having to sit through that stupid movie."

And that pretty much sums it up.

My legs weren't the only things that went numb, though. My mind went first. But then again, surrealist director Oliver Stone — the creator of acclaimed films such as *Any Given Sunday*, *Nixon*, *Natural Born Killers*, *JFK*, *The Doors*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Wall Street* and *Platoon* — tends to have that effect on me.

His exaggerated, overdone and, at times, acidic camera angles are too extreme and overwhelming. They usually overshadow the story, rather

than enhance it.

It's understandable how difficult it would be to cram the entire story of how Alexander (Colin Farrell) conquered 90 percent of the known world into a manageable one-sitting non-leg-numbing movie, but did I mention it was three unbearable hours? The Great One, and I'm not talking about Gordie Howe here, led his Greek, Macedonian and later Eastern armies through 22,000 miles of sieges and conquests. And of

those 40-plus battles and wars, Stone shows viewers just two halfheartedly put-together and confusing battle scenes. The two battles, at Guagamela and in the forests of India, are both kicked off with very uninspiring and ambiguous "freedom" speeches. For some real pull-at-the-heart-strings and motivational pre-war "freedom" speeches please see *Braveheart*, *Arthur*, *Troy*, all three of the *Lord of the Ring*

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

See **Stoned**, page 15

THE SCENE

Stoned

FROM PAGE 14

films and *Dodgeball*. Yeah, that's right; even *Dodgeball*'s go-get-um pre-game talk is more rousing.

The rest of the film delves into the politics, social-customs and lifestyles of the time, about 300 B.C., with major homosexual undertones. Did I mention this is a three-hour movie?

Stone also explores Alexander's relationships with his mother Olympias (Angelina Jolie), his father King Philip, the one eye (Val Kilmer), his lifelong friend, general and lover Hephaestion (Jared Leto), his ambitious and beautiful wife Roxane (Rosario Dawson) and his trusted general Ptolemy (Anthony Hopkins).

Just 45 agonizing minutes into the film and a scene straight out of *The Black Stallion*, Alexander's conquest finally gets under way when he launches an invasion from Macedonia. Through Ptolemy's narration, Alexander leads his armies to free Western Asia from Persian control and then on to the Battle of Guagamela, where his vastly outnumbered troops achieve an impossible victory against the Persian army itself. He trudges into the unknown lands of modern day Central Asia, expanding his empire to include such countries as Greece, Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Egypt, Libya, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus,

Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan. He then ventures across the passes of Hindu Kush into the exotic world of India, where he nearly fails in his conquest.

Along the way, his relentless push to rule the world nearly causes mutiny among his own men. But that's all too expected on the path to becoming a legend.

The cast is great despite the fact that none of the actors appear to be Greek or speak Greek. Farrell's Australian accent can be detected while Leto speaks perfectly smooth English as do the Persians and the Asians and all of the other conquered "barbarians." One of the soldiers actually has an Irish accent. The best is Jolie who speaks with an over-the-top Romanian accent with a vampiress hiss.

Some of the scenery is beautiful, such as the mountains of Hindu Kush and Babylon, but it is funny how Stone managed to recreate Babylon's hanging gardens — one of the ancient Wonders of the World — but couldn't find a believable blond wig or hair extensions for Farrell.

Sorry to say, but I can't even recommend waiting for the DVD even with its beautiful cast and scenery, unless it's possible that the director's cut would actually be shorter and better than the theatrical release. As it is, *Alexander* will leave you fighting to conquer your boredom.

Finding Neverland

Author's story is moving

With each job he takes on, Johnny Depp is quickly vying for the title, "Best Actor in Hollywood."

Depp's astounding performance in Marc Forster's *Finding Neverland* is truly Oscar-worthy.

After taking on tougher roles in films such as *Blow*, and adapting an over-the-top image in *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, Depp is surprisingly reserved in *Neverland*.

Set in London in the early 1900s, Depp plays author/playwright J.M. Barrie. For the most part, Barrie's career is fairly mediocre. He seems to have a very flamboyant imagination, in that most of his works are derived in his mind.

Due to his lackluster writing, his boss, Charles Frohman (Dustin Hoffman) begins to lose faith in Barrie's work. But, a chance meeting with a woman and her four sons serves as Barrie's inspiration to write one of the greatest fantasy tales ever.

Kate Winslett plays Sylvia Llewelyn Davies, the single mother of four rambunctious

boys who, like Barrie, have very colorful imaginations.

Barrie develops a very close relationship with the Davies family, putting an understandable strain on the relationship with his wife.

Depp's performance is amazing in that audiences will relate to his character. He is trapped in a presumably failed marriage. He also has to deal with Davies' grief stricken mother. Barrie's trips to the park and his writing serve as ways for him seemingly forget about his problems, for a little while at least.

One of the Davies boys—named Peter coincidentally—serves as Barrie's main source of inspiration. Barrie sees that the boy is kind of an introvert, and tells him he could one day become a great writer. It is assumed that Barrie wants a "land" where the Davies family can go and "never" have to worry about a thing.

The family seems to bring Barrie much joy along with motivation. Because he has a wife—but no children—many people begin to speculate on the nature of Barrie's relationship with the family. He doesn't let that hearsay deter him

See *Neverland*, page 16



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THE SCENE

Kinsey Controversy surrounding sex researcher continues

Sex researcher Alfred C. Kinsey was a man who went where no man had gone before.

Before Masters and Johnson and Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Kinsey delved into the complex and misunderstood world of human sexuality, breaking boundaries that - for better or worse - ignited the sexual revolution of the 1960s. He did this in the 1950s, a time when Ward and June Cleaver were prohibited from sleeping in the same bed.

Of course, depending on your point of view, Kinsey also led a vulnerable public down the garden path of record divorce rates, familial instability and the AIDS epidemic.

But who was Kinsey? The movie, *Kinsey*, answers that question, and tackles the question of whether the world is a better place because of his research.

The pivotal scene that illuminates Kinsey's (Liam Neeson) motives comes early in the film, when he takes his new bride, student Clara MacMillan (Laura Linney) to a honeymoon suite

after their wedding. The virginal pair, sitting on a large, ornate bed, realizes that they aren't quite sure what to do. It doesn't go well.

But things are much smoother after a trip to the doctor. But the couple's humiliation is palatable. And in the early 1950s, Prof. Kinsey vows to find ways to better inform the public - and free them from old wives' tales and misconceptions - through research and a marriage course at the University of Indiana.

What followed was complicated: Kinsey and his researchers - gamely played by Timothy Hutton, Peter Sarsgaard and Chris O'Donnell - released two reports, the first of which was called *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (1948). *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* (1953) followed. Both volumes flew off the shelves.

The movie succeeds in showing that Kinsey's research methods did not always work out in the way he expected, but it's important to remember that



Reviewed By
Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

there was no blueprint from which to work. The movie does a good job of showing the emotional landmines navigated by Kinsey and his researchers, who often used themselves and their sexual experiences to contribute to their research.

The film also captures the times in the right light. It's interesting that Kinsey, who died 3 years after the *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* was published, was only vilified by his financial backers, the media and the university once he started looking at what women wanted sexually.

Barring one scene with full male frontal nudity, the movie is not as explicit as one might think, given the topic.

There's been a lot of conjecture about this movie, and

Kinsey's research. There also seems to be a lot of blaming the messenger.

It is inconceivable, and comical, that the right-wing religious group Focus on the Family is spurring an effort to debunk Kinsey's findings - 50 years after the fact - because of this film. On the group's web site, no less than nine anti-Kinsey articles are linked. It was also disappointing that the Birmingham Theater - where I saw the movie Saturday - refrained from putting the name of the movie on the marquee. One can only imagine what their motives were for omitting it.

Kinsey helped people understand themselves and their needs a little better. Let's hope the movie helps us understand Kinsey better.

Neverland

FROM PAGE 15

from visiting his new companions and as his relationship with the family grows, Barrie's wife eventually leaves him.

Through all his trials and tribulations, Barrie is still able to conjure up the ideas for his next tale: *Peter Pan*. Because of the way he casts the characters—Pan is played by a female—the actors in Barrie's play are unsure of what to think, yet they stay involved with the production.

Just before opening night, Ms. Davies becomes afflicted with some unknown illness. Three of the boys elect to stay by their mother's side, and Peter is the only one who sees the work he and his family inspired. The play is a hit, with children and adults alike, and Barrie is a success. Even his estranged wife is impressed.

The acting in the film is top notch, made even more so as the actors have to keep with the Victorian times. Depp is able to show anguish and joy with much authenticity. The range he has shown as an actor is amazing. And his performance in this film is sure to raise some eyebrows come Academy Awards time.

Finding Neverland is a lesson in finding goodness and having belief in a better world. If you're not afraid to shed a few tears, or cry a river, I highly recommend viewing this film.

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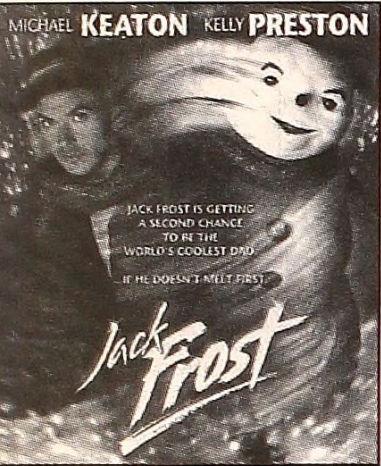
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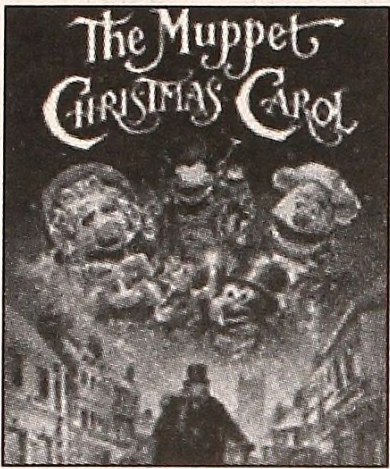
Holiday movies bring spirit of season home

Remember last week, between the stuffing and the shopping when you swore you were going to take some time with your family and watch a real holiday movie? Didn't make it, huh? Well, here are some more on our list of the most enjoyable films of the season. So take a break from the shedding tree, the unwrapped, unselected and oftentimes, unpaid-for gifts, pop some popcorn, gather your nearest and dearest, even if it is the cat, and take some time to enjoy the holiday. (We'll give you another chance next week, but that's it.) Enjoy.



Dec. 5
Jack Frost (1998)
Michael Keaton, Kelly Preston
Jack Frost (Keaton) is man who tries to be a husband, father and rocker. But when he is killed in a car accident he realizes that his priorities weren't in

check. He then tries to right his wrongs once he is reincarnated as a snowman.



Dec. 6
The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)
Michael Caine
The entire Muppet cast takes part in this Charles Dickens classic. Kermit is the dutiful Bob Cratchet and Miss Piggy is his feisty wife while Michael Caine plays the grumpy Mr. Scrooge.

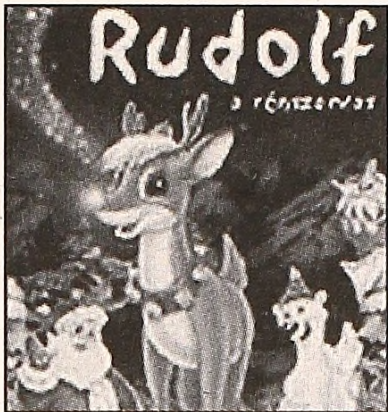
Dec. 7
The Santa Clause (1994)
Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold
Tim Allen plays a divorced yuppie father trying to endure a rocky relationship with his son. Things start to change for the better when a twist of fate transforms him into the Santa Claus.

Dec. 8
Eight Crazy Nights (2002)
Adam Sandler
This animated feature may not be a classic yet but we thought

it would be a good one to begin Hanukah. Once party animal Davey Stone's wild ways go too far a judge, in the spirit of the holidays, gives him a choice to either be an assistant referee for youth basketball or go to jail. When his personality clashes with the head referee's, he wonders if it would have been easier to go to jail.



Dec. 9
Elf (2003)
Will Ferrell, Bob Newhart, James Caan
This comedy features Saturday Night Live alum Will Ferrell growing up thinking he is an elf when he is very much a grown man. The movie tracks his journey from his home at the North Pole to New York City to find his father. He not only finds a different world than he was used to, but finds out he is something different than he always thought he was.



Dec. 10
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)
The television special that used stop-motion animation to tell the story of the misfit reindeer with the glowing proboscis first aired in 1964. It's bizarre take on the familiar holiday story still delights.

Dec. 11
Emmett Otter's Jug Band Christmas (1977)
Emmett is a poor, musically-talented otter who wants to buy his mother something nice for Christmas but can't afford it. He and his friends start a makeshift jug band to enter into a local contest which pits Emmett's band against the ruffians in the Riverbottom Nightmare Band. The special was originally made for television by Muppet creator Jim Henson in 1977.

Dec. 12
Frosty the Snowman (1969)
The 1969 cartoon narrated by Jimmy Durante is a holiday classic. When a magical hat

brings a Frosty the Snowman to life, the schoolchildren who built him have to figure out how to save him from the rising temperature.

Dec. 13
Die Hard (1988)
Bruce Willis
Hmm. European thieves posing as terrorists taking over a corporate tower in Los Angeles on Christmas Eve doesn't sound like it would rouse the Christmas spirit. But the classic action movie featuring New York City cop John McClane (Willis) taking on the thieves single-handedly is always a thrill.



Dec. 14
Die Hard II: Die Harder (1990)
Bruce Willis
Bruce Willis once again saves Christmas from a group of terrorists. This time it's at Dulles airport in Washington DC where John McClane is waiting for his wife's flight to come in. When a group of elite American military guys gone bad take over the airport to ensure the safe landing of an arrested foreign general, McClane is thrust back in action to save the day.

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SPORTS

End of the road

Eagles fall to Monroe in regional finale

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

All good things must come to an end.

The season even has to end for a team that has gone further than any other Romulus Lady Eagle team in the history of the school — one that surpassed all expectations at the district and regional level.

The goal from the start of the season was to win the district championship. They did. It was the first time in 20 years that a Romulus team won the tournament. But sometimes accomplishing your goals isn't enough. Sometimes you have to surpass them to make them valid. They did that, too.

The Lady Eagles made history in another way, also. They won their regional playoff game, 51-37, against the Southgate Titans last Monday at Tecumseh High School. It was the first time in the history of the Lady Eagles that a team ever won a regional match-up.

But Romulus' storied and historical season came to a crashing halt last Wednesday when they faced off against an equally tough and eager-to-win Monroe Trojan team. It was a back-and-forth game all the way, but Monroe pulled out a 63-59 victory to cap-

ture the Region 3A championship.

The two teams traded the lead through the entire game with the biggest spread at halftime. Monroe was up by five points, 26-21.

The first quarter of play was completely even, 13-13, but Monroe separated themselves some in the second to take the lead after two quarters of play. Romulus and Monroe traded blows in the third but the Trojans managed a two-point lead at the end of the frame.

The two teams battled on through the final seven minutes and 45 seconds. Romulus trailed by three points with just 15 seconds on the clock, according to Romulus Coach Rhonda Henry. Her senior three-point sharpshooter Janiece Armstrong was on the bench, fouled out, so she had to turn to her senior point guard, Paris Hawkins to step up.

"I set up a three-point play for Paris," she said. "They went for it and Paris, wide open, hit the shot and sent the game into overtime."

In the extra period, Monroe nailed back-to-back three-pointers to put them up by seven. Romulus fought back and brought the game to within four, but time ran out on the Eagles.

"It was a tough way to see it end," Henry said. "The girls know they were a part of something spe-

cial. No one wanted to see it come to an end.

"We don't think we were deprived of anything. We lost to a good team. We did the best we could and it will definitely be a season to remember. I knew it would be tough no matter when it ended."

Hawkins finished the game with 20 points while Armstrong and junior forward Landria Buckley each knocked down 11. The Tennessee-State-University-bound-senior, forward Ashley Sibby, added 10. Sophomore guard Erika Wasson, who was sick the entire day of the game, stepped in and added five points for the team.

Romulus 51, Southgate 37

The Lady Eagle's history-making first regional game was another story.

Romulus trailed by two points after the first quarter, 10-12, but pulled ahead in the second by four, 21-17. The game remained close through the third frame but Romulus maintained a three-point advantage, 30-27. Like the fourth-quarter team that they are, the Eagles pulled away in the final eight minutes to secure the 51-37 victory.

The second quarter was the key, according to Henry. Romulus didn't give up a field goal in the period, only five free throws. Part



The Romulus Lady Eagles take to their trademark pre tip-off huddle earlier in the season. The Eagles' storied season came to an end when the Monroe Trojans defeated them 63-59 in overtime in the Region 3A Championship game last Wednesday at Tecumseh High School. Four seniors will be missed in the huddle next season. (File photo)

of the success was due to Southgate's star Amy Smith getting into early foul trouble, Henry said.

"She had two early fouls, she said. "We wanted her to get her third and that worked out for us."

But Smith came back in the

third and scored four of her 10 points to get the Titans back in it. That didn't stop the Romulus' fourth-quarter magic, though.

"We came out and had a really great fourth," Henry said. "That's

See **Eagles**, page 21

Plymouth Whalers top Peterborough Petes, back to 2nd place in West division

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

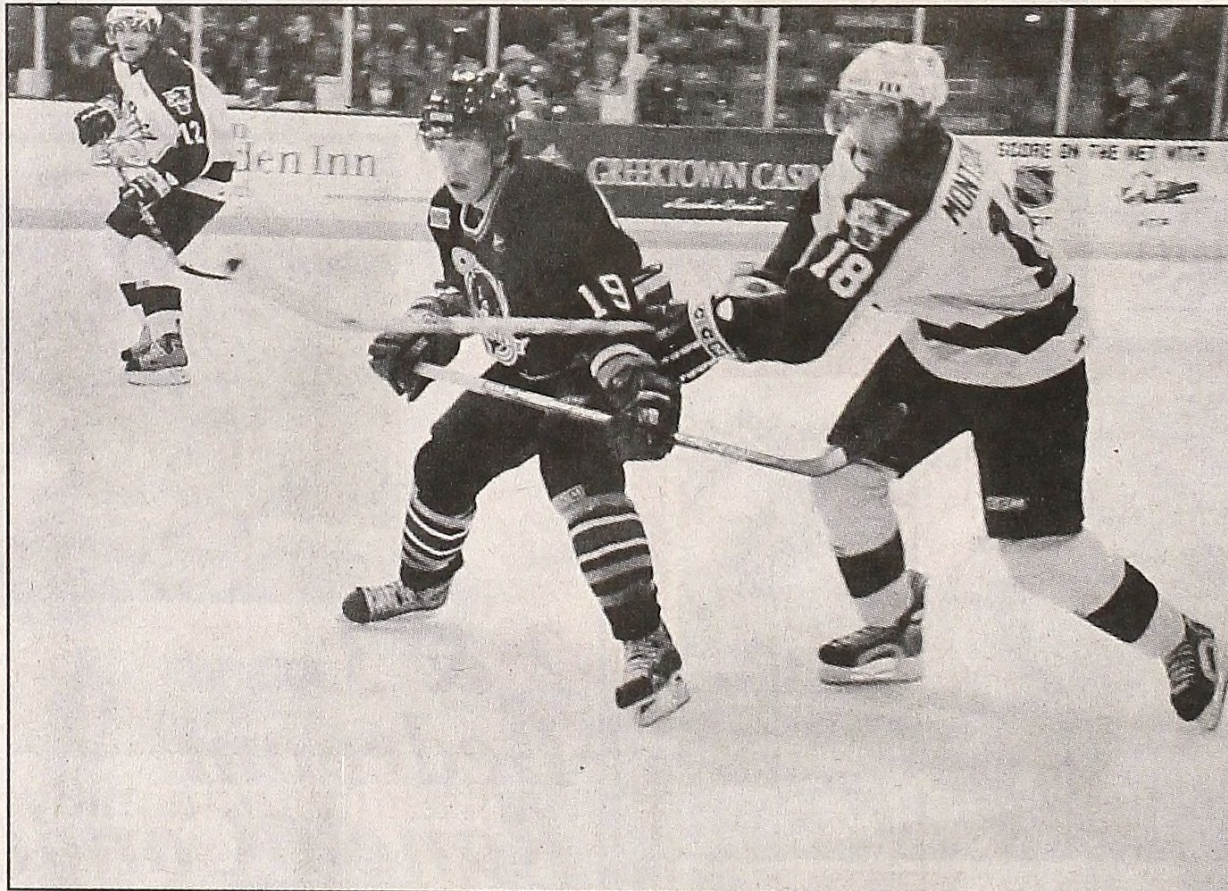
The Plymouth Whalers entertained a sold-out crowd at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township with a 4-2 victory against the Peterborough Petes on Saturday.

The win moved the Whalers back into sole possession of second place in the West division, with 24 points.

Dearborn native John Vigilante was stellar with a three-point game that included the winning tally that snapped a 2-2 tie in the second period.

It didn't take long for the Petes to get on the board. Only 25 seconds into the opening period Daniel Ryder knocked one past Plymouth goalie Ryan Nie for a 1-0 lead. Liam Reddix and Mark Flood assisted on the play. Dan Collins evened the game with his 10th tally of the season at the 12:06 mark of the first. Tim Sestito and Vaclav Meidl recorded the assists.

Peterborough climbed back into the lead when Greg Williams was credited with a goal at the 5:47 point in the second period. Rookie John Armstrong scored his second of the season less than a minute later to knot the score at 2. John Mitchell and Vigilante helped on the goal.



Plymouth's James Neal (19) fends off Peterborough's Mike Montgomery (18) in the Whalers' 4-2 victory in a sold out Compuware Sports Arena Saturday night.

Vigilante came up big at the 15:49 mark to put The Whalers up 3-2. Armstrong and Mitchell earned the assists on what would be the winning goal. Mitchell, from Vigilante, put the game away for good on an empty netter.

Nie stopped 38 of 40 shots, which earned him the right as

the game's first star. He has been a part of every Whaler victory this year and leads the OHL, with 1327 minutes played in 23 games. He has also lowered his goals against average to 2.31 and raised his save percentage to .921.

Whalers 2, Knights 4

The London Knights proved

that they are the number one team in the OHL when they topped the Whalers 4-2 Friday night in front of 9,066 fans at the John Labatt Center in London, Ontario.

London's Rob Schremp had a hat trick to help London remain undefeated (23-0-1-0). He opened

the scoring on a power play at 8:53 into the first frame of play. He knocked in a rebound past Whaler goalie Justin Garay. Garay made the initial save against Brandon Prust in front of the net, but Schremp chipped in the rebound for the 1-0 lead.

He then made it 2-0 at the 14:57 mark of the second period. Corey Perry made the pass to Schremp from behind the net out to the left point where he slapped it home.

Mitchell cut into London's lead when he shot one by London goalie Gerald Coleman with about 26 seconds left in the period. The score came on a power play with help from Mike Knight and Sestito. London's Drew Larman was in the box for cross-checking, which allowed Plymouth a man-advantage.

Perry put the Knights back on top when he top-shelved his shot at the 4:25 mark of the third frame. But Mitchell again cut into the lead, 3-2, with a shorthanded goal 5:08 into the period. Schremp added his third of the night on another London power play and put the game away, 4-2, at the 11:22 point.

In the end London out shot Plymouth 44-22. Garay was solid as he stopped 40 of the 44 shots.

See **Whalers**, page 20

Young Rocks team skates to 2-2 opening record

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The NHL may still be on strike and more than likely will remain idle the entire season. So what's a hockey fan to do? It just so happens that last week marked the start of high school varsity hockey.

Although, the likes of Steve Yzerman or Brandon Shanahan may not grace the ice with their presence, but that doesn't mean that there won't be two teams of someday NHL hopefuls facing off to win some hockey games this winter.

One of those teams looking to make some noise this year is the Salem Rocks. The Rocks were back in action the last two weeks and have posted a 2-2 record. But it's early yet, said Salem Coach

Fred Feiler.

Salem is in the middle of rebuilding their program, this year. They lost nine seniors to graduation, eight of which were starters. They have a young crew this time around but most of them are returning from the 12-9-3 Rocks team of last year.

"It's a little bit of a rebuilding year," Feiler said. "We're coming along; we'll be all right when it's all said in done."

Co-captain and senior defenseman Craigen Bauldrey is back to anchor the defensive unit. Senior John Peterson and sophomore Evan Melbers are also back on the squad with experience from last year. Newcomers on defense include sophomore co-captain David Carey, John Hoelscher, Nathan Edelen, Jason Sharrow and Jason Booms.

In net, senior Brandon DeMars is back and newcomer Derek Edelen is set to back him up.

On offense, senior co-captain and forward John Maurer is back with the team along with senior forwards Tommy Cooper, Ryan Sharrow, Stephen Tripp and Chris Wilson.

Senior Adam Gillikin, who played defense last year, is trying on a different skate. This year he will be slated as a forward.

Good thing. Gillikin scored a goal in the team's first outing against Troy on Saturday, Nov. 20.

Sophomore forward Brooks Belhart is also returning veteran form last year. Joining in the mix this year is sophomore Kris Brandt along with Nathan Werda, Joel Cheesman and Ed Simeone.

The reshaped team started out

shaky with a loss in their first game against Troy. Troy's five-goal second period essentially put the game away.

Salem was on the board first with a goal from Maurer. Brandt earned the assist. But in the waning seconds of the first period, Troy equalized the score. Then they broke the game open in the second.

Salem cut into the lead with a score from Gillikin and an unassisted goal from Ryan Sharrow, which made it a 6-3 game with about 8:08 left in the game. Bauldrey assisted on the Gillikin goal. Troy put things away with a tally from David Sherwood.

Salem 7, Western 3

The Rocks' second outing was more successful as they buried Walled Lake Western 7-3 on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

Western scored first but Salem came back with three goals from Wilson, Jason Sharrow and Kris Brandt. Cheesman and Bauldrey earned assists in the scoring spree.

Salem started the second period with another goal from Belhart with assists from Brandt and Peterson. The goal made it a 4-1 game. Western scored again at about the 9:00 mark but Gillikin scored again, from Bauldrey, to maintain a three-goal lead. Western scored in the final seconds of the period and made it a 5-3 game.

Belhart scored his second of the night in third with help from Gillikin and Cooper. Cooper put the game away, 7-3, with an assist from Nathan Edelen.

See Hockey, page 21

Youth and experience expected to carry Canton Chiefs' grapplers

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

With a roster fortified by 40 strong and experienced wrestlers, the Canton Chiefs are geared up for this season.

Out of last year's roster, Canton Coach Casey Randolph only had to say good-bye to two starting seniors: Steve Hosey and Dave Kersten.

The rest spent the off-season preparing for the winter session

to start. Randolph said the team traveled to competitions and camps throughout the spring. He took 10 wrestlers to a camp in Pennsylvania and 15 to a camp in Virginia. He also brought in his former college roommate and wrestling partner, Ramico Blackmon, from Eastern Michigan University to work with the wrestlers.

Blackmon was one point and one injury away from going to the Olympics, according to

Randolph.

Randolph has two all-state wrestlers returning to the lineup this year. Senior Ryan Webb at 135 pounds and sophomore Corey Phillips (130) are back. Also returning is regional qualifier and senior P.J. Caram at 189 pounds.

Junior Marwan Faraj (152), junior Ryan Schnettler (103/112), Pete Bonneau (130/135), junior Konrad Konsitzke (140/145), junior Matt Sweda, senior Alex

Frietag (135/140), senior Jay Fleischmann (119/125) and junior Tom Bonnell (215) are all expected to start or at the least see time on the mat, according to Randolph.

Randolph said he likes what he sees so far. His team is young but gained a lot of experience last year.

"The team went from dead last in my first year here to the middle last year," Randolph said. "This year we want to be one of

the top teams to beat."

In the spring, Webb was ranked third in the state in Greco competition. Konsitzke also placed third in state in Greco and was AAU grand champion. Phillips was first in freestyle and second in Greco and was AAU grand champion. He was also named to the Michigan Cadet National Team and was one point away from

See Chiefs, page 21

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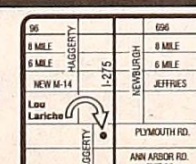
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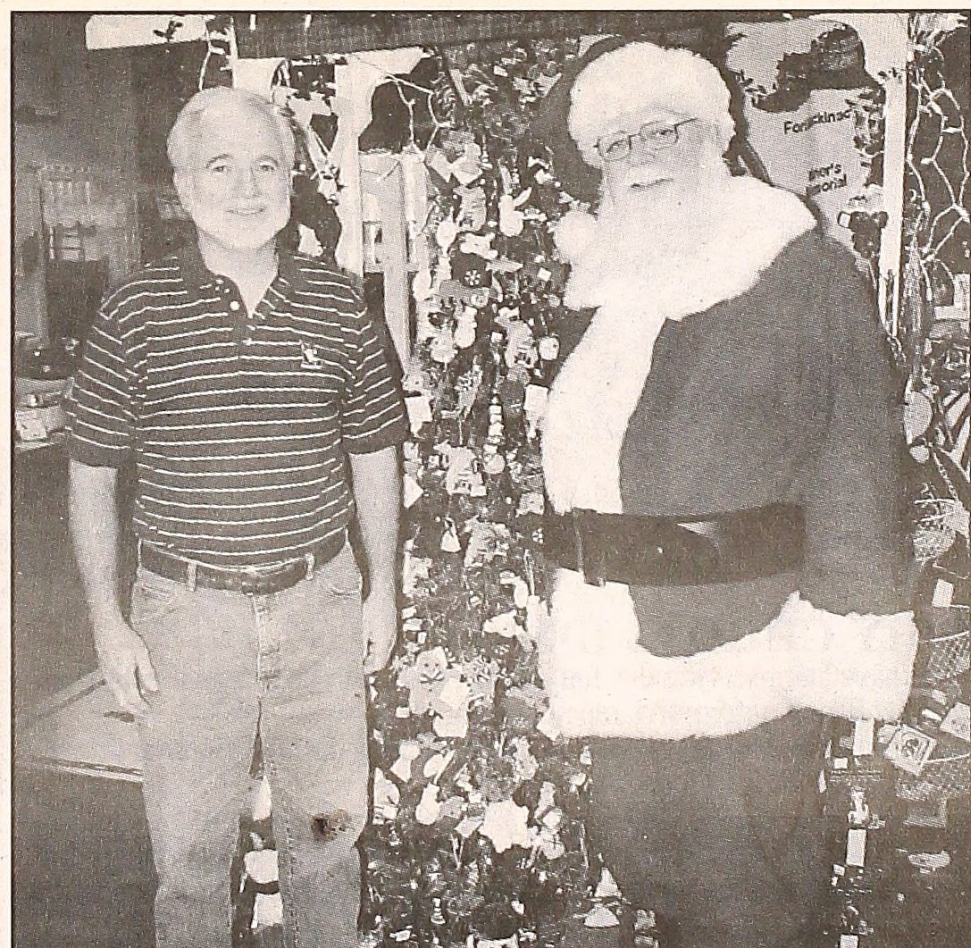
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Whalers

FROM PAGE 18

As of Friday night the Knights were one game away from tying the longest OHL unbeaten streak, set by the 1983-84 Kitchener Rangers, who won 25 straight games. London is also threatening the all-time Canadian Hockey League mark of 29 games, set by the 1978-79 Brandon Wheat Kings, who went 24-0-5 during the streak.

Whalers 2, Spitfires 5

The Windsor Spitfires burned Plymouth again last Wednesday at home. Windsor overcame a two-goal deficit to walk away with a 5-2 victory.

Knight, with help from Vigilante and Craig Cescon, put the Whalers up, 1-0, with a score at the 3:22 mark of the first. Mitchell extended the lead near the 12:00

mark with a power-play goal. Knight and James Neal assisted on the tally.

From there Windsor scored five unanswered goals against Nie for the victory. Ryan Garlock scored in the first, which made it a 2-1 game.

Cal O'Reilly scored unassisted to knot the game in the second and Paul Giallonardo gave the Spitfires the lead, 3-2, on a power-play score at the 12:55 mark of the second. Garlock and Steve Downie recorded the assists.

Jason Dixon, from Ryan Donally and Jared Cipparrone, extended the lead in the third period and Downie scored the empty-netter that put the game away, 5-2. Garlock assisted on the final goal.

The Whalers are home this weekend when they host Mississauga on Friday and Kitchener on Saturday. Both games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.



Whalers' goalie Ryan Nie (35) stopped 38 of 40 shots to anchor the win. The performance slated him as the first star in Saturday's game against the Petes.

Rebuilt Belleville Tigers team ready for new season

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Tigers men's basketball team will have a tall task ahead of them to repeat as champions of the Mega Red league.

While some teams have pretty much stayed the same or have gotten stronger due to experience, other teams are rebuilding, practically from the ground up. The Belleville Tigers are one of the later teams.

Belleville graduated seven seniors off of last year's roster, including stars like William Jones, Eddie "Matt" Miller, Robert Igbawua, Andre Olden and Tyler Jones.

Despite the fact that the starting lineup from last year is pretty much dismantled, Belleville Coach Mike Krogel said he does have a solid core of experienced underclassmen returning. Isaac Kindell and Josh Samarco, will return as seniors. Both played at the guard position last year.

The 5-foot-10 Kindell will take on different positions this year, according to Krogel. He said he could play small forward or point guard this time around, while Samarco will remain at guard.

Also returning is junior Leon Freeman. Krogel said he would also be used at several different positions this year. Freeman came up big for the Tigers last year, making great plays against

Romulus in the league championship game, and had big games in the district playoffs as well.

Tommie Clark, who gained some valuable experience as a freshman guard last year, will return for his sophomore season.

"We're counting on him to do a lot for us this year," Krogel said.

Belleville will also gain the skills of three transfer students this season. Senior point guard Anre Partee is expected to contribute right away, while senior forward DeMarcus Boone and junior center Michael Gibson may have to wait for eligibility due to their transfers from other schools. The 6-foot-5 Boone and the 6-foot-6, 250-pound Gibson could enter the lineup after the Christmas

break, according to Krogel.

Other new additions to the team include junior Carlos Clark at guard, who will offer his athleticism and tough-mindedness, Krogel said. Junior forward Stephone Fredrick and Ali Allen, who isn't tall but plays big and physical as a back-up small forward, should also make it on the roster, according to Krogel. Two others looking to crack the lineup are sophomore Carel Dial and junior Mike Donaldson.

Donaldson could play as a small forward or possible a power forward, according to Krogel.

Krogel said he is still evaluating players and trying to find who will fit best where.

"We're trying to put the pieces

of the puzzle together," he said. "Until Christmas break we're going to be small. We're going to have to rely on a scramble-type offense.

"I think our lack of experience will surface early until we can get an idea what guys we can put on the floor; which ones will play on offense and defense. I just want to get to March then I think we will be all right."

Belleville's season and home opener will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7 against the Salem Rocks.

"(Bob) Brodie always does a good job of getting his team ready," Krogel said of the first game. "It should be a good opener."

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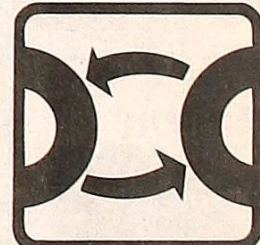
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Canton gymnasts aim for regionals

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Canton Coach John Cunningham said he has high expectations from his team of gymnasts this year.

The Chiefs were ranked ninth in the state last year and placed second at the regional level but took gratification in beating Livonia, who was ranked third in the state.

This year the roster is 32 strong – down from last year’s 40 – but that isn’t a concern, according to Cunningham.

He has 10 returning sophomores that gained invaluable experience last year. The backbone of the team will be last year’s top all-arounder, senior Megan Chappo. Veteran Allysa Kelley, who was ranked third in state on the vault, will join her as well as seniors Heather Wagner and Jillian Hoard. Junior Mina Pirzadeh and Chelsea Selden – also a top-notch diver for Canton – will rejoin the ranks.

Kate Staley, who Cunningham

said could be one of his top all-around competitors, is back and the experienced Kara Ahern is also expected to be a top competitor. Sophomores Kaitlyn Burns and Andrea Houdek, each with a year experience, are expected to contribute again this time around.

Freshman newcomer Jesse Murry worked hard all summer to make it on the team, according to Cunningham, and will get some time on the floor. Sophomore Hillary Brook, also a cheerleader for the high school, will have a chance, too. She was out of the state last year, competing in cheer, but has returned and could be one of the team’s best gymnasts, Cunningham said.

“I want to be reserved, but I think we can break some school records again this year,” he said. “I have some kids that have the ability to set new records.

“We have one of the strongest leagues in the state,” he cautioned. “We could have the best team ever and still lose four or

five meets. I don’t want to, but it’s possible.”

The Michigan High School Athletic Association recently realigned the regions matching Canton and Salem with the likes of Ann Arbor Pioneer, Trenton and Adrian. The change put tough competitors such as Northville, Livonia and Farmington in to other regions.

Excited, Cunningham said, “regionals could be a toss up between Salem and Canton.”

Before they set their sights on regional competition, though, the Canton Chiefs will have to face the regular season. Canton will host their season opener against Brighton at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14. The rest of the month they are on the road for the Vassar Invitational and the Farmington Invitational meets. Then they go to Northville for a dual meet, and after that, they will compete in the Rockford Invitational. They are finally home again on Tuesday, Jan. 11 to host cross-campus and regional rivals Salem at 7:00 p.m.

Chiefs

FROM PAGE 19

being named All-American. He is currently ranked 30th in the nation.

The Chiefs’ first contest this

year was a scrimmage against a pretty good Grosse Pointe North High School. There, Canton wrestled without their top two wrestlers and still walked away with a 14-4 record.

“After the scrimmage I feel pretty good,” Randolph said. “I saw some good things and some

things we need to work on. We’re not an elite team, but we’re going to be competing with a lot of the top teams. I’m excited to see where we can be as a team this year.”

The Chiefs will test their skills next at the Hudson Varsity Invitational on Saturday.

Hockey

FROM PAGE 19

Salem 5, Waterford Mott 2

Salem hosted their invitational tournament last weekend where they split their games.

In the first game they lost to Chippewa Valley 1-0.

They went on to play Waterford Mott in the consolation match up where they won, 5-3.

Salem went up 2-0 with goals from Wilson and Maurer. Cooper and Gillikin earned assists on the scores respectively. Mott came back and tied the game at the end of the first period. Ryan McWilliams and Greg Smith scored to even the score 2-2.

McWilliams gave Mott the lead with his second-period goal but Wilson countered with his second goal to re-knot the score.

Salem put the game away with

two goals in the third period. Ryan Sharrow scored the game-winner at the 5:38 mark and Tripp added the insurance goal at 14:19.

Chippewa Valley won the tournament with a 4-3 victory against Utica Eisenhower.

Salem will suit up for Churchill tomorrow night in Livonia and host Dearborn United at 8 p.m. on Saturday at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Eagles

FROM PAGE 18

something that we’ve been doing all season – finishing games.”

The Eagles were 86 percent from the line in the game. They hit 19-of-22 free throws and were 8-for-8 in the fourth quarter.

Sibby was 11-of-11 from the line, which accounted for the majority of her 15 points in the win.

She also nabbed nine rebounds. Hawkins also scored 15 points and Armstrong ended the melee with four rebounds and 13 points, which included three three-pointers.

Freshman Jasmine Brown earned time on the floor and scored four points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Next year the Eagles will be without seniors Hawkins, Sibby, Armstrong and Candace Lawrence but a strong core of underclassmen will return. Wasson, Buckley, Brown, junior

guard Jasmine Charles and junior guard Kate Appel are expected back for next year as well as a slue of up-and-comers from the junior varsity team.

Henry is also expected back to continue her winning ways for Romulus.

“We have more to accomplish and more to do,” she said.

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BUSINESS

New Compass Café appeals to all ages

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

Plymouth-area children are about to have a new place to romp, and their parents are going to have a new place to relax and unwind.

The brand-new Compass Café on the corner of Main Street and Penniman is almost set to open.

Housed in the former NBD Bank building across from Kellogg Park, the new café will be part coffee shop, part children's playland—complete with a five-story safe, a playscape with amenities such as slides and a large walk-through globe.

Heather Eisenhardt, owner and manager of the café, said the building had a nice ambiance to it, and that she and her partner fell in love with it. They purchased the building in August, and Eisenhardt said crews have been working "night and day" since then.

The café's menu is still a work-in-progress. Eisenhardt said it will have basic things such as salads, pastries and desserts. She also said that, after the café opens, it will feature foods from around the world.

While she did say the menu will have children's favorites, as well, she made it clear that it would give younger patrons a lot of other options.

"We're going away from the beaten path," Eisenhardt said. "We're going to have crepes and Belgian waffles. We're going to try to give the kids some culture."

The Compass Café will also have a room for birthday parties and community events. And a portion of the café's proceeds will benefit the Cross Bridge Academy, 9388 N. Lilley Road, in Plymouth.

Eisenhardt is a geography instructor at Eastern Michigan University. Her love for geography will be shown throughout the café.

Along with the oversized globe, patrons will have maps at each table. Eisenhardt hopes to promote geographic literacy through geography bees and lectures, too.

"Everyone is proud of where they come from," she said. "I wanted to create an environment that would inspire conversations about geography. I really hope it teaches people about their surroundings and about how beautiful the world is."



Lauren Beras, far right, her friend and owner of the original Sole Sisters in Royal Oak, Nicole Sterling, son, Grayson Beras, and husband, John, are celebrating the warm welcome the new store received in Northville.

Sole sister New shop struts into Northville

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Even before Sole Sisters—the first store dedicated to shoes in downtown Northville—opened last week, owner Lauren Beras said that she knew that the community had been a good fit because of the support she had already received, and things have only

gotten better so far.

The original Sole Sisters store in Royal Oak owned by Nicole Sterling, a friend of Beras, was the model for the new shop. When Sterling wanted to go on vacation with her family earlier this year, Beras offered to mind the business. During that 5-day stint, Beras said that she quickly found out that she really enjoyed the

work and the store.

"What can be better than to be surrounded by things you love every day when you go to work," Beras said.

Although she owned her own event-planning company, Beras said that the market was fairly slow at the time, and she kept herself occupied by work-

See Sole, page 23



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Sole

FROM PAGE 22

ing in the Royal Oak store several days a week.

Her work fueled her desire to stay involved in the business, and when she mentioned that she would like to own her own store, Sterling suggested that she open the first franchise of the original store—a prospect that Beras said appealed to her and to her husband, John.

She looked into the possibility of opening her store in Plymouth, Rochester, Clarkson, and Milford, but ultimately the appeal of Northville triumphed.

“It has a warmth here that I didn’t find anywhere else,” she said. “There’s something very small town about it, but the women have a real sense of style. It just seemed like a perfect fit.”

After signing her lease in October, Beras said that her plans for creating the new store were temporarily derailed due to the unexpected death of her father.

However, after the initial shock was over, Beras said that she and her family literally threw themselves into their work in the store.

“We started putting in 16-hour days just so we wouldn’t have any idle time, any time to think,” she said.

Within 3 weeks, the store was ready to go, although Beras credits the resident of the apartment over her store with having the patience of a saint for welcoming

her and her family to the community despite construction noise that often continued well into the night.

Since the store opened, Beras said that she has received support and advice from everyone she meets, from her landlord to the neighboring business owners.

“I didn’t know I would be received so warmly,” she said. “It’s been better than I ever imagined.”

In fact, Beras said that when she decided to settle in Northville, she took a look at what the other retailers in the area stocked and deliberately avoided offering the same merchandise to avoid unnecessary competition.

“We hand pick everything—we don’t corporate buy,” she said. “We have some brand names you won’t find anywhere else in the state because we’re the only ones who sell them.”

Fun, stylish, and above all, unique shoes and accessories are the hallmarks of the store.

“We don’t stock too many of the same thing,” said Beras. “People don’t like to see themselves coming and going.”

To that end, among the shoes, handbags, jewelry, and other accessories, are several one-of-a-kind items, including items created by a Troy-based jewelry maker who never repeats a design. The store also offers its own line of jewelry known as Love Linkz that benefit hospice.

The family owned store, is located at 142 Center St. in downtown Northville.

Don’t get mad

Business specializes in anger management

Andrea King
Staff Writer

If you need advice with managing anger and the everyday stresses of life, Marie McDade of Belleville is there to lend a hand. Her main focus, she said, is to help people learn about anger and how to manage it.

“Most people have the idea that anger is negative and that anyone who is angry has a problem. That is not so,” she said.

The Michigan Anger Management Institute in Belleville offers training, coaching and classes in anger, stress, communication and emotional intelligence. It is designed to improve one individual or group at a time by equipping them with skills necessary for healthy management of anger, according to McDade.

“Any person can benefit from this. It is for all types of people,” she said.

Through both her professional and personal experiences, McDade considers herself a survivor. As a child, she grew up in a dysfunctional family, which lead her to live by two principles: “Courage is not the absence of fear, but the determination to forge ahead in spite of the fear” and “The prison doors of your life are standing wide open, just waiting for you to walk out.”

“Once I share my personal

”
The problems
and issues
around anger
are huge. I’m here
to help people
learn that
there is hope.

story with people, their view usually changes,” she said. “The problems and issues around anger are huge. I’m here to help people learn that there is hope.”

McDade is a registered nurse and certified anger management facilitator for adults and adolescents. She has experience as a group facilitator and motivational speaker, and soon discovered that there was a need for this type of program in the Belleville area.

“There isn’t one description of a person who can benefit from our programs,” said McDade.

In all of the programs, McDade emphasizes the five keys to healthy anger management: the right person (who are you really angry at); the right time (should I let them know now, or later); the right degree (is this worth punishment); the right reason (what is it really about) and the right method (talk it

over).
“It’s important for people to know the emotion of anger is natural. We all get it. It’s when a person is angry frequently and it lasts too long. That’s when it becomes a problem,” said McDade. “There is no reason for people to feel ashamed. In fact, I commend the people who come in. There are many people who need to be here, but because of their pride, they aren’t.”

McDade said that there are simple ways to relieve the built-up aggression from the everyday stresses including anger management and relaxation techniques, ‘unloading your plate,’ spirituality and communication.

“Communication is mainly where the problems stem from,” she said. “Some people don’t know how to communicate their needs and thoughts. It is either overdone, or underdone. What we offer here is an educational program, not therapy.”

And without honesty McDade said that the education process—honesty, open mindedness and willingness—is not possible.

“I try to encourage honesty as early on as possible. It’s less important for you to be honest with me then it is to yourself. People who come in recognize the need, and benefit from the programs. That makes me feel really good,” said McDade.

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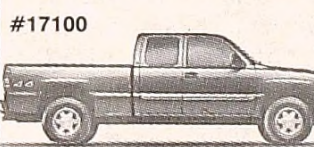
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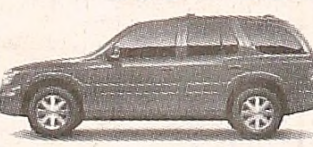
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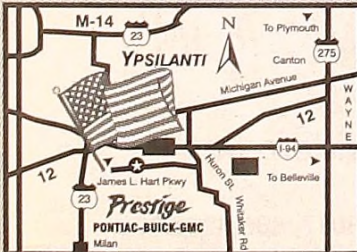
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instead of deducting state and local income taxes. If you pay no state income tax, you will, of course, choose the sales tax deduction.

To calculate the deduction, you'll have the option of totaling the actual dollar amount of sales tax paid during the year, or using a standard table provided by the IRS. You can add tax paid on certain large purchases, such as vehicles or boats, to the figure in the standard table.

Planning tip: Accelerating large purchases into 2004 may benefit you, assuming your itemized deductions will exceed the standard deduction amount (\$9,700 for married filing jointly, \$4,850 for singles).

Another consideration is the timing of your final state income tax payment. If the

sales tax deduction will be more advantageous, you might opt to defer the last estimated state income tax payment into 2005.

Be aware that if you're exposed to the alternative minimum tax (AMT), state and local taxes are not deductible when computing AMT liability.

Vehicle donations. Beginning in 2005, the new law tightens the rules for donations of vehicles to charity by placing a cap on the amount you can deduct and by requiring charities to provide

documentation.

Generally, for cars, boats, and airplanes with a claimed value of \$500 or more, your deduction will be limited to the sale amount if the charity sells the vehicle instead of keeping and using it. In addition, you must obtain written acknowledgement of your contribution from the charitable organization.

Other provisions in the law could affect you. Please call for an appointment to review the changes and their impact on your tax situation.

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Karen Nemier
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As you take steps to provide a secure future for your family, term or permanent life insurance could be an important part of your financial plans...

Karen Nemier can be reached at 734-454-4058.

Privacy Policies and Websites Protecting Your Customer's Confidential Information



Jill Goldstein
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Every business that receives information about customers through their website needs a privacy policy. California recently enacted a law requiring a commercial website that collects "personally identifiable information" from California residents to post a privacy policy. Since the web is not geographically specific, all commercial websites are potentially affected. Other states likely will follow. Here are important issues to consider when forming privacy policies.

First, is the policy appropriate for your website? Many businesses have "form" policies that may not reflect the actual business conducted on the website. This could result in omissions of required elements, or overbroad policies that may not be appropriate. Ensure that all applicable local and federal laws are followed.

Consider third parties with which your site is affiliated. Confirm that they are not using information obtained from your website. Beware of cookies, spyware, and other pitfalls.

A privacy policy will help protect the rights of your customers and the security and reputation of your business. Follow the terms of your privacy policy flawlessly. If policy and practice conflict, costly lawsuits and negative publicity may arise. Consulting with an attorney before implementing a policy is highly recommended.

End Of Year Tips on Asset-Based Giving

For many people, charitable giving is motivated by humanitarian concern as a way to leave a legacy to a favorite charity or a particular institution. In addition, charitable gifts offer donors the option of reducing income taxes in the year the donation is made or deferring the tax benefits until later.



Curt Whipple
C. Curtis and Associates, Inc.

Of course, annual cash gifts continue to represent a traditional method of giving to not-for-profit organizations, but asset-based gifts are worth considering because of their advantages to the investor as well as the charity.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, and cash are generally called immediate donations. You could also consider including a not-for-profit organization in your will, and your heirs will be able to take advantage of estate-tax savings.

If you're considering donating some stock to a charity, there are a number of benefits. Let's assume that you invested \$5,000 five years ago in a stock or bond that is now worth \$10,000. If you sell it, you'll have to pay a commission, plus tax on the \$5,000 gain. Even at the new maximum 20% capital-gains rate, that will be a tax bite of \$1,000—reducing the effective value of your security to \$9,000 available to give to the charity.

But if instead you transfer the security to the organization directly, the charity gets the full \$10,000 value. You get to deduct the full \$10,000 on your tax return. You have no capital gain, so there's no tax to pay. And you haven't sold it, so there's no commission.

It's important to point out that as long as you're still alive, gifts of life insurance or retirement benefits or similar donations can be revoked if the beneficiary designation is changed. Since these revocable gifts are a promise to be fulfilled at a later date, they will appeal mostly to donors who want to plan a major gift immediately but also want the option of retrieving the assets if an emergency occurs. The disadvantage for these kinds of gifts is that they don't qualify for a charitable income-tax deduction.

Other charitable contributions, such as gifts to charitable trusts or pooled income funds are called irrevocable gifts because once initiated, the donations of assets cannot be retrieved. These gifts do qualify for charitable income-tax deductions in the year the donation is made.

If you're considering a donation to a not-for-profit organization, I encourage you to call and discuss the matter with myself or your other financial advisors. While the tax benefits can be great and the good will is good for your heart, there are many options. It's not as hard as it may sound, however, you want to make sure you find the right plan for your objectives.

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Toys for Tots

Radio celebrity continues charity drive

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

On a day traditionally built around packed shopping malls, Plymouth residents packed into the brand new Compass Café.

Last Friday, the café played host to WMGC 105.1's popular Magic Morning show, as the station kicked off the annual "Toys

for Tots" campaign. During every holiday season, radio personality Jim Harper, formerly from Westland and a graduate of John Glenn High School, and his co-hosts team with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Toys for Tots program to distribute toys to disadvantaged children.

Last week marked the fourth consecutive year the *Magic*

Morning Show has broadcast from Plymouth the day after Thanksgiving. The show was just one part of a day filled with events, culminating with Santa's arrival in Kellogg Park and the annual lighting of the community Christmas tree.

Compass Café owner and manager Heather Eisenhardt said there were about 100 people outside the building at 5 a.m., and about 150 people there when the show began an hour later. She also said the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority approached her and her partner about hosting the program, and she believes it was a wise choice.

"They were looking for a place big enough to accommodate a lot of people," Eisenhardt said. "This was the perfect choice."

Although the café hosted the event, Eisenhardt said the date for its grand opening is yet to be set.

Allison Koenigbauer, promotion director for WMGC, said the station received more than 25,000 toys in 2003. She also said that if that goal is surpassed this year,



Rebecca Yarborough, whose husband is one of the Marines involved with the Toys for Tots drive, enjoys some of the Magic Morning Show banter under the watchful eye of Marine William Culp IV. Culp is also participating in the drive this year. "It's a great program," he said.

Harper and his cohosts-Linda Lanci, Mike Bradley and Cyndy Canty-will wrestle in Jello.

Koenigbauer also had nice things to say about the Plymouth community, as well.

"Plymouth is a wonderful place to be during the holiday season," she said. "And because of the community's response, it's also a great place to have a Toys for Tots campaign."

In order to get more donations, the station also takes its show to area malls. So far this week, WMGC has been to Twelve Oaks, Oakland, and Briarwood Mall. Today, Harper and his crew will be at Macomb. And tomorrow, they

will set up shop at Lakeside Mall.

Harper has participated in the program for 26 years. While that's a long time to be a part of such a good cause, he has nothing on the group that's been a part of Toys for Tots for 56 years.

In 1948, the United States Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots. They expanded it into a nationwide community action project as the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots Program. Each year, Marines at each Reserve Center throughout the nation conduct toy collection and distribution campaigns in the communities surrounding the center.



Former Westland resident and John Glenn High School graduate Jim Harper, now of WMGC 105.1 radio, returned with his morning crew to downtown Plymouth last Friday to begin the annual Marine Toys for Tots drive.

CLASSIFIED

- 01. Obituaries
- 02. In Memoriam
- 03. Cards of Thanks
- 04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
- 05. Personals
- 06. Legal Notices
- 07. Attorneys
- 08. Entertainment
- 09. Lost & Found
- 10. Coming Events
- 31. Help Wanted Sales

- 32. Help Wanted
- 33. Child Care
- 34. Specialized Services
- 35. Situations Wanted
- 40. Business Opportunity
- 42. Pawn Shops
- 43. Money to Loan
- 44. Music Lessons
- 45. Art Lessons
- 46. Private Instruction
- 47. Schools
- 50. Pets & Supplies

- 54. Rummage Sales
- 55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
- 56. Garage Sales
- 57. Antiques
- 58. Flea Markets
- 59. Auctions
- 60. Misc. Sales
- 61. Misc. Items
- 62. Building Supplies
- 63. Business with Office & Equipment
- 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

- 65. Tree Service
- 66. Landscape / Nurseries
- 67. Garden Plant / Supplies
- 68. Garden / Produce
- 70. Christmas Trees
- 72. Machinery Tools
- 73. Musical Merchandise
- 74. Sporting Goods
- 75. Boats / Accessories
- 76. Snowmobiles
- 77. Recreation Vehicles
- 78. Hunting / Fishing

- 82. Wanted to Buy
- 87. Room for Rent
- 88. Duplexes for Rent
- 89. Apartments for Rent
- 90. Condos for Rent
- 92. Business Places for Rent
- 93. Banquet Halls
- 94. Farm Land for Rent
- 95. Garages for Rent
- 97. Cottages for Rent
- 98. Mobile Homes for Rent
- 99. Mobile Home Lots for Rent

- 100. Will Share
- 101. Wanted to Rent
- 102. Storage
- 103. Business with Property
- 104. Farms with Acreage
- 105. Mobile Homes for Sale
- 106. Houses for Sale
- 107. Condos for Sale
- 108. Lake with Resort
- 109. Income with Property
- 110. Lots for Sale
- 111. Out of State Property

- 112. Commercial Lease
- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
- 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
- 118. Handicapped Vehicles
- 119. Auto Repairs
- 120. Motorcycles
- 121. Autos Wanted

31. Sales Help Wanted

FULL
OR
PART-TIME

The Journal Newspapers seeking Inside Sales Reps for the Classified Advertising Department. The qualified candidate will possess excellent communication skills and relationship building characteristics. Prior telemarketing experience preferred but will train the right individual. Please forward resumes to:

Advertising Sales
A group of community newspapers based in Wayne, MI with over 100 years of market coverage is looking for qualified outside salespeople. If you have outside sales experience selling to businesses then we are looking for you. Please forward your cover letter and resume to: The Journal Newspapers -- Attn: Rob Young (Advertising Director) 35540 Michigan Avenue West / Wayne, MI / 48184

Fax: 734-729-1840

or email to
ryoung@journalgroup.com

EOE

32. Help Wanted

Domino's Pizza
Hiring Assistant Managers! Starting pay \$8/hour plus bonus potential. Benefits after 6 months. Please have resume and references available. Contact Don at 248-615-5550 ext 220

Live-In Caretaker
needed to reside with/ do light housework. Food/Rent provided for, plus a monthly wage. Please call 313-408-6138

Skilled Trades Trainee
CNC Stamping Shop Westland. Will learn press brake, welding, and related processes. Must be drug free, high energy, straight arrow. 734-641-8517 bossjob4@hotmail.com

Call
734-467-1900
to place your
classified ad.

34. Specialized Services

Experienced woman seeking children to babysit during and after school.

Call 734-595-4681

Looking to buy?
Need to sell?
Place your ad in the
Journal classifieds.
Call 734-467-1900

34. Specialized Services

BRATCHER ELECTRIC
COMPLETE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SINCE 1956

Remodeling • Service • City Repairs

734-722-0037
35728 Van Born • Wayne

57. Antiques

Motor City Antiques

13431 Telegraph Rd. Flat Rock, MI 48134 (734) 782-4018
17,000 Sq. Ft. of Antiques & Collectibles
Over 100 Dealers
Come Visit our NEW 950 Sq. Ft.
FURNITURE ALLEY
Hours: Tues-Sat 10-6, Sun Noon-6

15th Year Memoriam July 20, 1920 - December 2, 1989

In loving memory of Gwendolyn Woody, gone but not forgotten in our hearts. Not a day goes by when we don't think of you and remember the happy times we shared.

Love,
Marquis, Kathy, Gloria,
Michelle, and Garnett



**BOLD
PRINT
ATTRACTS
MORE
READERS!**
CALL 734-467-1900
to place your ad.

BE YOUR OWN BOSS
\$250K-500K potential.
24 Hour Message.
888-871-3651
www.250K.com

No Commute!
Learn to Earn
\$10,000 a month
from home.

1-885-554-3316

40. Business Opportunity

All cash vending route for sale. 50 high traffic locations. \$36,000 approximate annual income. Sell for \$5000

1-800-568-1392 or
www.vendingthatworks.com

Call 734-467-1900
to place your
classified ad.

Worship DIRECTORY

Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church
DISTRICT ELDER LUKE A. McCLENDON, PASTOR

Sunday { Sunday Morning Prayer (8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.)
Christian Education (9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)
Morning Worship Service (11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

Nursery Room Available for Children 4 Years of Age and Under
29124 Eton Street • Westland, MI 48186 • 734-326-3833



Sunday School 10A.M. - Service 11A.M.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30PM.
Pastor Earl Duncan

Morningstar Church
28563 Pardo
Garden City, MI 48135
734-367-3029

55351 Beverly Rd.
Romulus, Michigan 48174 • 734-941-2621
Amazing Grace Christian Church
Pastor C.L. Nesbitt
Service Hours
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.
Everyone Is Welcome To Come

43. Money to Loan

Earn 14% Interest
Local real estate company
is seeking \$5000 to
\$15000 loans on residen-
tial homes.
Your money is fully
secured. If you are
tired of the Stock
Market and Low Bank
CD
Call
734-262-0888 Today!

59. Auctions

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On December 7, 2004 the
Westland Police
Department will conduct
public auctions of
impounded, abandoned
vehicles. The first auction
will begin promptly at
10:00 a.m. at Westland
Service Towing, 37501
Cherry Hill, Westland, MI,
County of Wayne, where
the following vehicles will
be offered for sale to the
highest bidder:

Trailer w/Boat
White
NONE

1990 Buick Skylark
2 Door-Silver
1G4NV14U6LM071688
1991 Ford T-Bird
2 Door-Black
1FAPP6044MH156149
1988 Acura Legend
4 Door-White
JH4KA4546JC055897
1991 Chevrolet Cavalier
2 Door-White
1G1JF14TXM7131486
1991 Geo Prizm
4 Door-Blue
1Y1SK5461MZ069131
1992 Ford Mustang
2 Door-Black
1FACP41M9NF124960

The second auction will
begin promptly at
10:30a.m. at Bar Towing
39025 Warren Rd.,
Westland, MI, County of
Wayne, where the follow-
ing vehicles will be offered
for sale to the highest bid-
der:

1985 Dodge Diplomat
4 Door-Blue
1B3BG56P1FX671202

The third auction will begin
promptly at 11:00a.m. at
Westland Car Care 6375
Hix Rd., Westland, MI,
County of Wayne, where
the following vehicles will
be offered for sale to the
highest bidder:

1984 Pontiac 6000
4 Door-Red
2G2AG19R9E1267807

1991 Ford Escort
2 Door-Green
1FAPP1288MW338127
1974 Chrysler Boat
W/Trailer-White

540021519
1979 Oldsmobile Cutlass
2 Door-White
3M47F9M581730
1991 Oldsmobile Cutlass
4 Door-Red
1G3WH54T5MD363493
1989 Mercury Topaz
4 Door-Red
2MEPM36X1KB658225
1988 Dodge Caravan
Station Wagon-Blue
1B4FK5030JX203598
1991 Lincoln TownCar
4 Door-Gray
1LNCM83WOMY704993
1996 Ford Contour
4 Door-Green
1FALP6536TK208929
1990 Ford Probe
2 Door-Blue
1ZVPT20C0L5190690
1989 Mazda
2 Door-Black
1YVGD31A4K5221063
1993 Ford Probe
2 Door-Red
1ZVCT22B7P5119446
1995 Ford Aspire
4 Door-Blue
KNJLT06H3S6109664

All vehicles are sold in "as
is" condition. Bidding on
all vehicles will start at the
amount due for towing and
storage. Vehicles may be
deleted from this list at any
time prior to the start of the
auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF

AUCTION
Due to unknown owner-
ship, 30 day notice is here-
by given that the vehicle(s)
listed below will be auc-
tioned after January 1,
2004 unless it is claimed
by the owner prior to that
time:

1990 Mitsubishi Eclipse
2 Door-Red
4A3CS44R1LE106629

87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres
Motel, low daily and
weekly rates.
Refrigerator, microwave,
HBO. Call 734-721-1220,
Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100.
Fairlane in Novi 248-347-
9999

CANTON DAYS INN
Low Daily, Weekly, and
Monthly rates.
Free deluxe breakfast
Guest Laundry
Microfridge in all rooms
40500 Michigan Avenue
Exit 22 off I-275
734-721-5200

Call
734-467-1900
to place your
classified ad.

Nice & Clean
College Dorm Style -
\$75 to \$125 per week.
Electricity & Gas included.
Phone hookup available.
Washer & Dryer.
On Michigan Avenue
between Merriman
and Henry Ruff. Private
Entrance.
Call: 734-777-3232
Ask for Dan

ROOM FOR RENT

Wayne, \$85/weekly, all
utilities included.
Call 734-721-0232

88. Duplexes For Rent

WESTLAND-NORWAYNE
Call for list of
available
2 & 3 BEDROOM
duplexes, and single
family homes. Section
8 welcome. Lead safe
units available.
Professional full-time
management.

Norplex Associates
734-722-6444

EHO

89. Apartments for Rent

PRINCETON COURT APARTMENTS

**NO RENT UNTIL
JANUARY 2005!**

Ranch-style land 2 bedroom apts., private entrance,
patio, washer/dryer hook-ups, lots of storage!

* with approved credit

734-459-6640

Convenient Wilcox/Haggerty Area
Plymouth

Under New Management



Belmont Manor apartments

ONE MONTH FREE RENT!

Spacious 1 Bedroom Apartment

ONLY \$560*

Spacious 2 Bedroom Apartment

ONLY \$660*

• Extensive Storage • Fitness Center
• Minutes from Eastern MI University,
Metro Airport & University of MI

3 Blks. South of Belleville Rd.
(Main St.) On Huron River Drive

For Details Call
(734) 699-2042

Fall into the Forest... Wayne Forest Apartments

We have up to two months FREE rent.

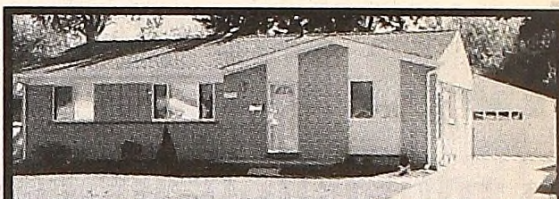


• FREE Heat • FREE Water
• Large individual Storage area
• Laundry Facilities In
Each Building
• Large Walk-In Closet
• 24 Hour Maintenance
• Carport Parking
• Centrally located to
the Airport, Highways
& Shopping

33095 Forest, Wayne, MI

734 326-7800

South of Michigan Ave. Just off of Vanoy



34809 Malcom Street Romulus

1,055 Sq. Ft., Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 2.5 Car Garage

• All new dry wall and insulation
• New windows, new roof on both garage and house
• Brand new counters, cabinets and flooring in kitchen
• Brand new electrical service w/ recessed lighting in every room
• Freshly painted throughout in neutral colors
• Brand new high efficiency central air and heat
• w/ programmable thermostat
• Brand new hot water heater

Also seen on:
**for sale
by owner**
Magazine

248-737-5900 / 586-323-7900
& www.ForSaleByOwner.com
ID# 20213762

89. Apartments for Rent

Newburgh Colonial Apartments

734-721-6699

**- Limited Special! -
\$425 Month**

• Spacious 1 bedroom
• On site laundry
• Cable ready
• 5 minutes from Ford plant

2400 S. Newburgh Rd., Westland

Funeral DIRECTORY

DAVID C. BROWN

FUNERAL HOME

460 E. HURON RIVER DRIVE

David C. Brown, Manager

Belleville 734-697-4500

Crane

FUNERAL HOME

36885 GODDARD
ROMULUS
734-941-9200
WILLIAM A. CRANE



Harry J. Will

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& Redford

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Harold Rediske II, Robert J. Gilbert,

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www.uhtfuneralhome.com



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JAMES H. PENN & SON

313-278-6300

3015 S. Inkster Rd.
Inkster, MI 48141

89. Apartments for Rent

Fall Into Savings!

SAVE UP TO \$1080 ON
A 12 MO. LEASE

Spacious 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments

• 800-1,000 square feet
• Large walk-in closet
• Heat and water included
• All appliances provided including
dishwasher and microwave
• Fitness center
• Great Location! Close to I-94, Ann Arbor,
Metro Airport & area shopping

Village Green of Belleville

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villagegreen.com

87. Rooms for Rent



CANTON

Super 8 Motel

3933 Lotz Rd (off Michigan Ave.)

(734) 722-8880



AWARD WINNING
Super 8
Motel
WEEKLY
RATES
\$199.99
& UP



I-275 exit 22

• All new rooms • Free deluxe continental breakfast
• Biscuits, gravy & belgian waffles added
• Free local phone calls • 70 station cable w/ HBO
• All interior corridors, with elevators • Micro fridge available
• "Ask about our jacuzzi rooms"

ATTENTION SENIORS: GOOD NEWS

A New Source of Retirement Income

No income, medical or credit requirements.

- Founded by Fannie Mae
- Developed by HUD
- Pay back taxes • Home Repair
- No loan repayment for as long as you live in your home
- Must be 62 or older to qualify
- Pay off low mortgage balance



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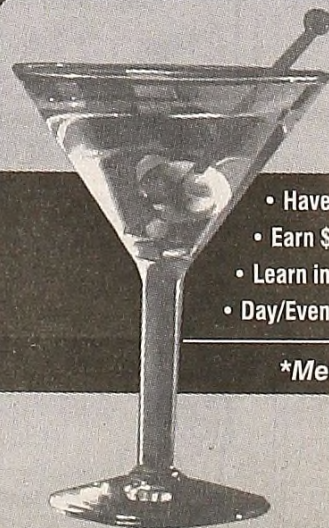
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Ask for Mr. Rogers



MIX School of Bartending MASTERS



- Have fun making great money!
- Earn \$20-\$40 per hour
- Learn in an actual nightclub setting
- Day/Evening/Weekend classes

- Don't be fooled by a traveling bartending school or mail order scams!
- Bar managers and owners only hire bartenders with "hands-on" experience
- Free local/nationwide job placement assistance

*Member of BBB • MENTION THIS AD FOR 10% OFF

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Locally 734-513-3600

www.icanmix.com

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For Rent

1 Bed \$550
Security \$750
No pets.
734-482-5076 or
734 834-2877

4045 Columbus
Wayne-1&2 bedrooms
apartments
tenant pays Gas & Elect
\$500 & 530 mo. total
move in
\$1000.00

Call: 734-522-1512

EFFICIENCY APT, fur-
nished,
1 person occupancy.
Heat / water included.
\$110/week.
Call - 734-728-9413.

WAYNE

1 Bedroom
New carpet, heat,
water, A/C, plus blinds.
Quiet Area
Section 8 ok.
\$565/month

734-459-4010

Wayne, MI

Spacious 1 Bedroom, Well
maintained, heat, water,
A/C included, no pets,
\$495
Call a Manager @
734-729-2108

or Owner @
734-878-0859

Call 734-467-1900
to place your
classified ad.

**1995 Chevy
Monte Carlo**
Automatic, runs great
\$2,995

**1998
Ford Windstar**
Quad-seating, like
new condition
\$3,995

**2002
Chrysler Sebring**
4 door, fully loaded,
super sharp
\$9,995

**2003
Pontiac Sunfire**
Auto, air, low miles
\$9,995

**2002 Chevy
Tahoe LT**
Leather,
fully loaded
\$23,495

**1997
Mercury Tracer**
4 door, auto, super clean
\$2,995

**2003 Chevy
Avalanche 4x4**
Z-71 Package
\$23,495

**Prestige Pontiac
Buick GMC**
414 James Hart Pkwy
Ypsilanti, MI

ASK FOR CHARLES
1-734-483-0322

WAYNE

1 Bedroom Apt
\$510/month
Utilities included

Call 734-845-6056

Wayne

Near Wayne Road - Nice
clean 1 Bedroom - Heat,
Water & Appliances.
Included - No Pets / \$475
and up

Call: 313-561-9818

96. Houses
For Rent

GARDEN CITY
Bungalow, air,
appliances \$750
WAYNE
Air, appliances,
fenced for pets \$750
RENTAL PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

House for Rent, Canton
Area 2 Bed ,Huge Garage,
5 acres
734-721-1220

INKSTER

26806 York
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath
Full basement, garage
Fenced in yard.
Newly remodeled
\$695/month
Section 8 ok.

Call Paul@
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INKSTER

3 Bedroom brick ranch
Close to School
Large Backyard
\$700/month
Call 734-326-1392

INKSTER
4 Bedroom, garage,
fenced \$600

INKSTER

Garage, air,
section 8 ok
\$675

RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS

734-513-RENT

INKSTER
Lease/Option Purchase
3 Bedroom Bungalow,
newly remodeled
Cherry Hill/
Inkster Rd area
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INKSTER, 4041 Williams,
3 Bedroom, basement,
garage.
\$775/mo., \$500 security.

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ROMULUS

3 Bedroom, 2 baths,
air, appliances \$800

BELLEVILLE

7 acres, available now

Many other
cities available

RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS

734-513-RENT

WESTLAND
3 Bedroom, fenced
for pets \$725
WESTLAND
Brick ranch, garage
\$765
Many others available

RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS

734-513-RENT

**2002 FOCUS
4 DOOR**
Automatic, air. 3.9%, 6 year,
75,000 mile certified warranty.
Only \$8,995

**2002/2003
Jaguar X Type**
All Wheel Drive, leather, moonroof.
6 to choose.
From \$20,995

BRIARWOOD

Corner of State and Michigan Ave.
Five minutes south of Briarwood Mall
1-800-258-1260
www.briarwoodford.com

WAYNE
4345 Woodward
\$1000/month

Call 313-719-4412

106. Houses For
Sale

Rent to Own!
Excellent terms.
Bungalow, 3 Bedroom,
1 bath, beautifully
landscaped.

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homes@tellthestory.net

ROMULUS

3 Bedroom, 2 car garage
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SUMPTER TWP

3 Bedroom, 2 Acres
Full Basement

734-697-1754

118. Freebies

Beautiful items!
Sofa and love seat like
new, plus bonus item.

313-277-0012

Full sized hide-a-bed
with steel frame. \$60
Assembled storage
closet \$25

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PRINT
ATTRACTS
MORE
READERS!
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734-467-1900
to place
your ad.**

**2002 Mustang
LX**
Automatic, loaded/spoiler
\$10,380

**2002 Explorer
4x4 XLS**
Auto, air, 29K
\$13,980

**2001 E-150
Traveler Van**
VCR, 2 screens, leather, full power.
\$11,990

**2002 Windstar
Wagon**
Full power, 38,000 miles
\$11,990

**2002 Honda Civic
EX Coupe**
Auto, power roof.
\$10,990

**1996 Mercury
Villager**
A/C, auto, power, clean
\$5,880

**2001 Ford E-250
Van**
High-Top conversion, TV/VCR,
only 26K miles
\$14,990

**2000 Taurus
SE**
Auto, a/c, all power
\$6,980

**2002 Focus
Wagon SE**
Loaded
\$7,990

2001 Lincoln Continental
Moonroof, HTD Leather seats,
loaded, low miles.
\$12,990

**2001 Mercury Grand
Marquis LS**
Leather, loaded, only 31K miles
\$11,990

*Bad Credit / Good Credit
ALL CREDIT ACCEPTED*
**JACK DEMMER
FORD**
39300 Michigan Ave.
Wayne, MI

Call Dave or Marty at Lot 2
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SHOWING**

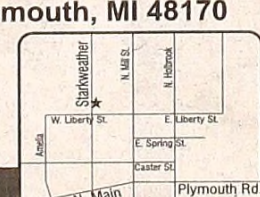
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Get Your Message Out To
The Communities **EVERY WEEK**
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MOVED!**


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Solve your problem FAST!

Call
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**Quick
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**Sales
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Webmasters & Design
New & Refurbished Computers**

PICKUP & DELIVERY

WE BUILD IT JUST FOR YOU

**Half Off
Diagnostics**

**Computer
Combo
\$350**
*Offers valid
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From all of us at Jack Demmer



2 PLANNERS SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$1000

DISCOVER THE DEMMER DIFFERENCE

Never Before Offered...

ASK US ABOUT FLEX-BUY
The Latest in Auto Financing

"A-PLAN" PRICING TO EVERYONE* ON ALL REMAINING 2004 MODELS FROM STOCK

Model Year End Clearance Event

2004 Mustang Coupe

Single wing rear spoiler, power driver's seat, speed control, air conditioning, six CD changer radio with mach. 16" bright alloy wheels, overhead valve V6, five speed manual, P225/55R16 94T BSW all-season, interior upgrade package, pony package. STOCK #41818 ■ WAS \$21,035

Save Over '7000! No W \$13,841¹⁰

2004 Ranger XLT SC 4x4

AMFM stereo/clock/CD player, rally gauge cluster, 4-wheel ABS brakes, 16" aluminum wheels, fog lamps, air, 4.0L SOHC V6 engine, 5-spd auto O/D trans, P245 OWL all-terrain tires, 4.10 ratio regular axle, 5000 GVWR, P235 all-season spare. STOCK #40935 ■ WAS \$24,095

Save Over '9400! No W \$14,615⁴⁰

2004 Crown Victoria LX

Floor and wrist storage/shelving, 5-pass handling pkg., dual exhaust sys., stop/hold/walk/hold/brake ctrl, pwr lth w/blk skp, 17" 5 spoke alloy wheels, 4.6L OHV SEFI V8 eng., elect. auto. O/D trans, P235/55R17 BSW tires, trchn ctrl, pwr adj. pedal, pwr lth mirrors w/blk skp, trunk mounted CD chng, mchmtc ext part. STOCK #41821 ■ WAS \$31,135

Save Over '6400! No W \$21,065⁹⁹

2004 Freestar SEL

3.5L i40 reg. axle, elec. gpr, spd control, aux A/C tri-zone, pwr driver seat, 2nd/3rd row privacy glass, 4.2L OHV EFI eng, 4 spd auto O/D trans, P225/60R-16 BSW all season, ASP II identifier, deluxe crossbars, elec AMFM stereo/clock, active safety pkg I & II, rev. sensing system, power pass seat, leather seats. STOCK #42875 ■ WAS \$32,555

Save Over '8400! No W \$19,790⁰³

2004 Thunderbird

Heated driver & pass seat, air, AMFM stereo in-dash 6 disc CD, audiophile sound system, 17" 7 spoke chrome cast aluminum, 3.9L DOHC V8, 5-speed automatic, engine oil cooler, convertible soft boot, supplemental parking lamps, select shift trans, accent package, performance removable top. STOCK #40620 ■ WAS \$41,625

Save Over '11,200! No W \$30,422⁰²

2004 Expedition 4x4 XLT Sport

Fold flat 3rd row seat, aux lth/rar, sport accent tubular step bar, electric in view mirror, P285/70R-17 OLV all-ter, tire pressure mtrng sys, 5.4L EFI V8, 4 spd auto O/D trans, 3.73 ratio limited slip axle, rev. sensing sys, triv low, prem stereo in-dash 6-CD/clk, cloth captain's chair/console, r seat entrmnt DVD. STOCK #43973 ■ WAS \$42,855

Save Over '13,000! No W \$29,164⁵⁰

2004 E-150 Conversion Van

Preferred eqp. pkg, 7.3L V8, RV chvr trm, 5.4L EFI V8, elec. auto O/D trans, 3.55 ratio lth slip axle, aux heater, RV plus pkg., P235/70R-16XL OWL all-season, swing-out SDFIX cargo glass, leather-wrapped steering wheel, 16" bright alum wheels, bi-fold sofa, full length beds, Sleekstar Conversion, wood sill & much more. STOCK #43480 ■ WAS \$39,945

Save Over '13,000! No W \$24,532⁰⁵

A-Plan 66 Month Flex-Buy

ZERO DOWN 2000 DOWN
\$227⁹⁶† per mo. \$194²⁴† per mo.

SUV EARLY BIRD LEASE PROGRAM

for leases expiring Jan. 1, 2005 through April 30, 2005. See Demmer for Details

VISIT JACK DEMMER FORDS AWARD-WINNING BODY SHOP-DECEMBER SPECIALS

• Free Loaner • Free Lube & Oil Change • Free Pick-Up & Delivery with repairs over \$500

aplannahheadquarters.com

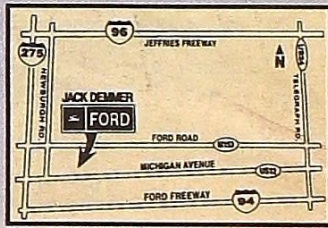
\$500 Extra!

On your trade-in! With the purchase or lease of a new vehicle. 1995 or newer, less than 100,000 miles. All prior sales excluded. Good through 12/31/04. ONE PER CUSTOMER

SALES
Mon. & Thurs. 8am-9pm
Tues., Wed., Fri. 8am-6pm

CALL 1-888-284-7470
www.demmer.com
Ph. 734-721-2600

SERVICE
Monday through Friday
7:00 am - 6:00 pm



15 MINUTES FROM EVERYWHERE!

JACK DEMMER FORD!

Winter Service Specials

RECOMMENDED SERVICES

FASTLUBE OPERATIONS

Oil & Filter Change & Lube \$23.95
(Up to 5 quarts Motorcraft oil & filter)

STEERING & SUSPENSION MAINTENANCE +

Rotate Tires \$19.95
Two Wheel Alignment \$49.95
Four Wheel Alignment \$74.95

BRAKE SYSTEM SERVICES

Inspect Brakes & Rotate Tires \$34.95
(Includes a visual inspection of brakes)

Pads / Shoes \$99.95
Motorcraft brake pads per axle
(Machine drums or rotors extra)

Brake Service \$195.00
Includes replace brake pads or shoes per axle
inspect and clean all hardware
Machine drums or rotors
(Motorcraft brake lining used for all menu pricing)

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Filter Package \$67.90
(Engine Air Filter and Fuel Filter for most vehicles)

Replace Micron Cabin Filter \$54.95

A/C System Check \$59.95
(Includes 12 oz. R134A)

PREMIUM SERVICES

Fuel Induction Service \$129.95

Transmission Flush Service \$149.95

Power Steering Flush Service \$89.95

Coolant Flush Service \$99.95
(Diesels Extra)

Air Conditioning Frigi Fresh Service \$59.95

Differential Service \$99.95
(F150-F250-F350-Expeditions-ExcursionsExtra)

Manual Transmission Transfer Case Service \$79.95
(F250-F350 Extra)

EVERY 5,000 MILES - \$39.95 PLUS TAX

(Or 3,000 For Severe Conditions)

- Perform Lube Oil and Filter Service
- Rotate Tires
- Check and Fill
 - Window Washer Fluid Level
 - Transmission Fluid Level
 - Brake Fluid Level
 - Power Steering Fluid Level
 - Coolant Recovery Reservoir Fluid Level
- Check
 - Operation of Horn, Interior Lights, Exterior Lamps, Turn Signals, Hazard and Brake Lamps
 - Windshield Washer Spray, Wiper Operation and Wiper Blades
 - Windshield for Cracks, Chips and Pitting
 - Radiator, Heater, and Air-Conditioning Hoses for Leaks and Damage
 - Engine Air Cleaner Filter
 - Oil and/or Fluid Leaks
 - Constant Velocity (CV) Drive Axle Boots (if Equipped)
 - Exhaust System (Leaks, Damage, Loose Parts)
 - Drive Shaft, Transmission, U-Joint and Shift Linkage (if Equipped) and Lubricate (As Needed)
 - Steering and Steering Linkages
 - Suspension (Shocks/Struts for Bounce/Leak/Damage)
- Protection Plan Kit - Extra
- Diesels - Extra

15,000 MILES - \$224.85 PLUS TAX

45K / 75K / 105K / 135K

- Includes All Services Performed at 5,000 Miles Plus the Following
- Replace Cabin Filter (if equipped)
- Fuel Induction Service
- Check
 - Brake System (Including Lines, Hoses, and Parking Brake) and Wheel End for End-Play and Bearing Noise
 - Engine Cooling System, Hoses and Clamps
- Protection Plan Kit - Extra
- Diesels - Extra

30,000* MILE SERVICE - \$312.75 PLUS TAX & DISPOSAL FEE

60K*, 90K*, 120K*, 150K*

- Includes All Services Performed at 5,000 Miles Plus the Following
- Replace Air Filter
- Cabin Filter (if equipped)
- Transmission System Flush
- Check
 - Brake System (Including Lines, Brakes, Hoses, and Parking Brake) and Wheel End for End-Play and Bearing Noise
 - Engine Cooling System, Hoses and Clamps
 - Accessory Drive Belt(s)
 - Battery Terminals (Clean If Necessary)
 - Clutch Operation
 - Evaporate Fuel System Hoses and Tubes (Only at 60,000 Mile Intervals Pre-1999 Vehicles)
- Protection Plan Kit - Extra
- Replace Fuel Filter
- Jack Demmer Ford Multi-Point Inspection
- Diesels - Extra

* Please consult service advisor for recommended premium services.

30,000* MILE PREMIUM SERVICE

60K*, 90K*, 120K*, 150K* **\$632.95 PLUS TAX & DISPOSAL FEE**

- Includes All Services in the Standard Service Plus the Following
- Fuel Induction Service
- Power Steering Flush
- Coolant Flush Service
- Diesels - Extra

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

Service Department Hours
Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 6:00 pm

Ask about our SHUTTLE SERVICE

To and From WESTLAND MALL

To do your Holiday Shopping While your vehicle is in service!



SERVICE TEAM

*Prices do not include sales tax, shop supplies and disposal fees and are subject to change without notice. Prices are based on most cars and light trucks. Heavy duty trucks, vans, diesel engines and some performance vehicles slightly higher. Check with a service advisor for complete pricing.